

Warring sides agree Vance deal

UN raises hope of peace force in Yugoslavia

By ANN MCELVOY IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CYRUS Vance, the UN envoy to Yugoslavia, announced a breakthrough in his peace mission yesterday, saying that Serbia and Croatia had agreed an ambitious plan to send peacekeeping forces to the divided country.

"I have seen steps taken that have not been taken before: the acceptance of our proposed plan in its entirety by both sides," Mr Vance said after meeting the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman.

"The situation is radically changed since I came and observed what I had observed. We have a way to go but we have made some real progress," he said.

The optimistic remarks offered a new-year message of hope to the Balkan state, convulsed by six months of conflict in which at least 6,000 people have been killed.

Acceptance of the UN peacekeeping plan, by the warring sides means agreement that units of the Serb-dominated federal army will



be replaced in disputed areas of Croatia by the UN intervention force. But deployment of the 10,000-strong UN force still hinges on a stable ceasefire being secured. Fourteen previous agreements, mostly brokered by the European Community and the UN, have collapsed.

Bitter fighting continued across Croatia yesterday. Zagreb radio reported the first war victims of the new year, saying three people had been killed in fierce clashes between Croatian forces and the federal army around the coastal town of Zadar.

Vukovar, on the eastern Croatian frontline, came under some of its heaviest artillery and rocket bombardment so far, with dozens of buildings reported to have been destroyed in the night and many left burning yesterday. At Karlovac, the industrial city 30 miles south of Zagreb, and nearby Duga Resa, residents spent New Year's eve in underground shelters. Heavy artillery attacks began at midnight and lasted until daybreak. Fighting also took place at Otocac, Beliste and Valpovo although no casualties were reported.

Zagreb entered the new year under blackout with no one venturing on to the central square, the traditional meeting point for revelers at midnight. At that moment national guardmen across the city fired off deafening rounds of ammunition and the sky was lit up by pink tracer flares.

Crowds, gathered to see in the new year in the two main hotels, rose to sing Croatian marching songs and shouted: "This year will be the year of our victory."

The part of the UN plan concerning the role of external forces and where they should be positioned had been the subject of disagreement between the two sides. Serbs in Croatia feared that the withdrawal of the army, as part of the plan, would leave them open to attack by Croats, while the Croatian leadership believed that the deployment of UN troops inside its territory would confirm the gains already made by pro-Serbian forces.

The agreement was reached after Mr Vance had met Serb and federal leaders in Belgrade on Tuesday and Mr Tudjman in Zagreb yesterday. He told them that this was their last chance to establish peace with outside help.

Mr Vance is to hold talks with Croatian and federal military leaders in Bosnia today to discuss the practicalities of establishing a ceasefire and preventing its breakdown by the individual actions of local commanders.

The consent to the UN plan means that forces could be deployed in warring areas

within weeks. But it is still far from clear whether local Serb leaders in enclaves within Croatia will back the plan and support the army's withdrawal from their areas.

In the Krajina region, which has declared itself a "Serbian autonomous republic", the leader, Milan Babic, has said repeatedly that he would consider any agreement to UN intervention to be treason against the majority Serb population in Belgrade.

While General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister, assured Mr Vance that such figures would be brought into line, there is still considerable scepticism about Belgrade's influence on extremist Serbs in Croatia.

The UN envisages sending the force of some 10,000 to eastern Slavonia, western Slavonia and the Krajina, the three areas where fighting has been most extensive.

Meanwhile, in Rome, the Pope, rising to the defence of Roman Catholic Croatia, said yesterday that the civil war was humiliating for the whole of Europe. "Let all those who are suffering — especially the people of Croatia — know that they do not stand alone," he told thousands gathered in St Peter's Square on the 25th world day of peace proclaimed by the church.

"The news we are getting about destruction and the massacre of innocents is blood-chilling. All Europe should feel affected and humiliated by such cruelty," he said. "Our compassion and solidarity goes out to those who are suffering most in a civil war that seems to trample on the most elementary human rules."

Children shelter, page 7
Leading article, page 13



Vance: "We have made some real progress"



High flyers: American cheerleaders during the Mayor of Westminster's new year parade. Diary, page 12

Relaxed Major backs beleaguered Lamont

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister admitted yesterday that the government's economic forecasts had proved over-optimistic and blamed the unforeseen length and depth of the recession on an unexpected slowdown in the big Western economies.

However, John Major reiterated his belief that a recovery was now under way in Britain and explicitly ruled

out any easing of the government's tough anti-inflationary stance.

He also came to the aid of Norman Lamont, his beleaguered chancellor, saying criticism of him was unfair and he was doing a difficult job extremely well.

In a relaxed and measured performance betraying few signs of the pressure he is under with Labour ahead in

the polls and an election within the next six months, Mr Major also sought to flesh out his vision of a society at ease with itself. He wanted to abolish envy in society and to dispel people's fears about their prospects.

The prime minister offered a subtle departure from Margaret Thatcher's more abrasive brand of conservatism by emphasising the importance of publicly funded health and education services, the welfare safety net for the poor and cooperation between government and industry. But in remarks that will please Tory right-wingers, he insisted that tax cuts and targeted increases in public spending could go hand in hand.

With currency dealers returning from holiday today to begin testing the strength of the government's commitment to the pound, Mr Major echoed Treasury ministers by saying that interest rates would be raised if necessary. He brushed aside calls from some Conservative MPs for devaluation by saying that

Continued on page 18, col 8
Russia and Europe, page 2
Letters, page 13
Shares rise, page 28

City gloom

Merchant banks face more job losses and cost cutting this year after another fall in the volume of mergers and acquisitions business and continuing pressure on fees. The value of bids completed last year fell by £2 bn to £10 bn.

Report, page 30

Ulcer drugs blamed for alcohol risk

TWO of the most widely used anti-ulcer drugs, Zantac and Tagamet, have been identified by an American medical study as increasing the absorption rate of alcohol into the bloodstream.

A warning could be necessary when the drugs are prescribed, especially for social drinkers who may drive or operate machinery, says a survey in the authoritative *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

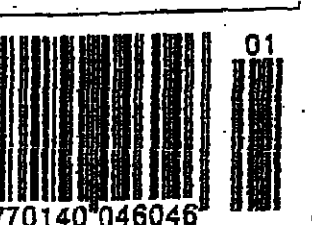
The study suggested that Zantac and Tagamet increased blood alcohol concentrations by 34 per cent and 92 per cent respectively in a group of 20 healthy white males aged 24 to 26.

Zantac is made by Glaxo, Britain's biggest pharmaceutical company, while Tagamet is manufactured by the Anglo-American combine SmithKline Beecham. Glaxo said last night other research, including a study last year, had failed to show any link with alcohol consumption. pages 9, 30

President Yeltsin of Russia appealed to people not to panic and Yegor Gaidar, architect of the price reform, said he was sure that there would be no civil unrest. page 7

De Cuellar's peace finale
Javier Pérez de Cuellar yesterday ended his tenure as UN Secretary General by negotiating an El Salvador peace deal. "I am a free man, I feel as light as a feather," he said. page 8
Leading article, page 13

Index	
Arts	11.16
Births, marriages	
Deaths	14.15
Crosswords	15.18
Letters	13.29
Obituaries	14
TV & radio	17
Weather	18



Wife killer dies in crash

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE were last night investigating a New Year's eve tragedy in north Wales in which a distraught husband stabbed his wife to death, wounded five relatives and died in a car crash which also killed three young men.

The five who died in less than an hour included Vernon Reynolds, aged 44, and his estranged wife, Denise, aged 39. The couple had been running a guest house and had three children.

The killings happened just before 11.15pm on Tuesday. Police were called to Clowry House, Church Walks, Llan-

udno, and found Mrs Reynolds dead and five of her family injured. Last night her father Victor Fryer, aged 60, from Colindale, north London, and Pauline Nash, her sister from Dunstable, Bedfordshire, were seriously ill in hospital.

Three other relatives, including Mrs Reynolds's mother Ada, aged 59, were sent home after treatment. Several of the Reynolds children were in the house during the killing and were unharmed. As police began a search for Mr Reynolds just before the

new year they were called to a car crash ten miles from Llandudno on the A470 near Tal-y-cafn. The wanted man's Morris Ital had crashed into a Mini, killing both Mr Reynolds and the three men in the other car. The three came from the Llandudno area and were named as Robert John Jones, aged 24; Arwyn Roberts, in his early 20s, and Brynley Roberts, aged 18. The two Roberts were not related. Yesterday police said no one was being sought for the murder of Mrs Reynolds or for having caused the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Royal family's productivity rises by 10%

By ELAINE FOGG

THE royal family increased its official workload in 1991, attending 3,270 events in the United Kingdom, 324 more than in 1990, and 1,022 during official tours abroad.

The Princess Royal is still the most dedicated worker in terms of numbers of engagements. She undertook 504 engagements in the United Kingdom and 241 abroad. Younger royals also appear to be working harder, most notably the Duchess of York. Prince Edward and the Princess of Wales.

The Duke of Edinburgh, out of the limelight recently, had 587 engagements at home and abroad, six more

than the Queen. The Duchess of York almost doubled her workload, attending 213 royal occasions in the UK and abroad, compared with 108 in 1990.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, seems an indefatigable member of the family. Her appearances were increased in 1990 because it was her 90th birthday year, but her engagements last year, at 102, exceeded 1989's by 12.

Princess Margaret did not have any overseas engagements in 1991, but made 103 appearances at home. This is down on her total of 148 United Kingdom engagements for 1990, when she had a busier official diary in her capacity as president

of the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Rough "pay scales", calculated by dividing individual allocations from the Civil List by the number of public engagements, have previously provoked palace officials, who had to deal with an avalanche of queries after the rumour caused when Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP, proposed a parliamentary motion to abolish the Queen's exemption from tax on her private wealth. The bill was given an unopposed first reading in the Commons last year but, as purely a test of opinion, could progress no further. Had it become law the Treas-

Continued on page 18, col 8

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS IN 1991

	A	B	C	D	E	F
The Queen	132	66	257	26	126	455
Duke of Edinburgh	143	115	40	71	289	298
The Queen Mother	45	22	14	2	2	100
Princess of Wales	134	62	105	54	158	301
Princess of Wales	107	44	27	25	139	258
Duke of York	45	27	11	9	24	83
Duchess of York	141	19	10	18	43	170
Prince Edward	101	66	28	18	56	195
Princess Royal	332	98	76	54	241	504
Princess Margaret	75	19	9	0	0	103
Princess Alice						
Duchess of Gloucester	28	9	14	0	0	51
Duke of Gloucester	98	28	18	25	N/A	144
Duchess of Kent	85	22	10	7	N/A	67
Duke of Kent	137	32	21	35	N/A	180
Duchess of Kent	132	19	22	20	N/A	173
Princess Alexandra	95	31	22	7	N/A	148

A: official visits, opening ceremonies, other appearances. B: receptions, luncheons, banquets. C: other engagements including investitures. D: days abroad on official tours. E: engagements on official tours abroad. F: engagements in the UK. N/A: no details available.

INSIDE

BLACK FILM



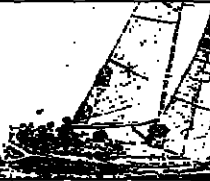
Marie-Laure Dougnac is the innocent in the superb and cannibalistic *Delicatessen*. Page 11

HEALTH



Mother Teresa's illness may have helped improve the care of elderly people. Page 9

BOAT BOOM



The 38th London International Boat Show at Earls Court is 25 per cent larger, with 800 craft, than last year 20-page supplement

SPORT



Alec Stewart captains the England cricket team for the first time in tomorrow's match in New Zealand. Page 24



The Chappell Sale

We offer the finest selection of Yamaha, Kemble, Chappell and Schimmel pianos in the UK, including the entire range of Yamaha grands.

And during our winter sale, reductions on selected lines can save you hundreds, even thousands of pounds.

There may never be a better opportunity to make that once in a lifetime purchase.

A full list of available instruments and prices can be obtained by calling or visiting any of our showrooms.



Chappell of Bond Street
50 New Bond St.
London W.1
Tel: 01-491 2777

Yamaha Piano Sales
24 Princes St.
London W1R 7PG
Tel: 01-484 0210

Chappell of Bond Street
21 Salisbury Arcade
Central Milton Keynes
Tel: 0484 662366

PART OF THE YAMAHA-KEMBLE GROUP OF COMPANIES

Bargain hunters bring welcome relief to big stores

EYES aglow, and with a determined step, the hunters closed in for the kill. Making sure that their weapons — chequebooks, credit cards and spacious bags — were intact, they brooked no opposition and no obstacle was too bulky to get round or through.

The first day of the January sales at Harrods was no place for the very old, the very young or the infirm. Within hours of the doors opening, Harrods was claiming that business was booming. Even before it started, spokesmen predicted that £16,666 would be spent every minute. They could not explain how they arrived at such a prediction.

Putting the press relations hype to one side, it does appear that the big London stores have something to celebrate with this year's sales. A Liberty spokeswoman said: "We have done much better than we had expected." Even so, with an upturn in retail business not forecast until spring at the earliest, the stores may well have a difficult winter ahead of them.

Jamie Dettmer reports on the opening of the Harrods sale and retailers' hopes for a recovery in the new year

Last year, despite a reasonable January sales performance, Harrods had to make big staff cuts to cope with the slump.

The Harrods sale was launched by the singer Diana Ross, who arrived in a horse-drawn landau before joining Mohamed Al-Fayed, Harrods chairman, in the traditional opening count-down. Miss Ross was paid nothing for opening the sale. Instead, Harrods donated £50,000 in her name to a scanner appeal at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Miss Ross had clearly been formed of the dangerous nature of her mission. She came well prepared with her own burly minders. "Lovely

to see you," she said with great feeling to nobody in particular. "Go on, Diana," cried the press photographers. "Cor, lovely," said one as she swung her hips. The thousands of bargain-hunters soon lost interest as the doors swung open.

At the front of the huge queue, which almost stretched the full circle of the building, was Paul Donlon, aged 19, a business student from Sheffield, who wanted to buy cutlery for his parents. "It might seem a little odd coming all the way from Sheffield to buy cutlery, but Harrods is the sale to come to," he said. "We were up at Trafalgar Square last night and we came here at 3.45 in the morning. I was very surprised to find myself first in the queue. The cutlery I am going for is reduced from £562 to £299."

Patrick Dolan, aged 26, of London, bought a 24in television reduced from £619 to £199. "I came yesterday just to have a look around and I saw this television," he said. "I came straight from work this morning and arrived at 8am."

China, glass and clothes were the big attractions in the sale. Among the bargains were a women's diamond bracelet watch, down from £111,000 to £55,500, and a sterling silver centrepiece, reduced from £9,995 to £5,995.

Harrods spokesmen insisted that it was just coincidence that the store started its sale on New Year's day, the first time in its 143-year history that it had opened on the first day of the year. They denied that the slump had had anything to do with it.

"It's the best looking January sale crowd for at least two years, although admittedly it was raining on those occasions," Peter Willasey of Harrods said. "All the indications are very good. Let's hope people are waving goodbye to the recession." Not to be outdone, Michael Cole, another spokesman, declared that the queue was the biggest for five years.

But the big question for retailers is whether the sales can make up for the poor run-up to Christmas.

At Selfridges, which started its January sale on December 27, trade has been brisk. "The figures are comparable, and in some cases better, than last year," Paul Lambert, personnel director, said. "We have done particularly well in china, crockery, electronic goods and menswear."

A spokeswoman at Liberty said that, so far, the returns on their sale were 20 per cent up on last year.

Diary, page 12



Pot of gold: a shopper examining a porcelain teapot in Harrods yesterday

Hunters chase after popularity

BY RONALD FAIR

FOX hunters in the Lake District are seeking to attract more support for their tradition in the face of opposition from campaigners against blood sports. "We want to see more people supporting the hunt and realising that the hounds perform an essential service in these rural communities," a follower in stout boots and deerstalker said as the Blencathra pack scouted Carrock Fell for a scent. "This hunt has even produced a video explaining exactly what goes on."

Barry Todhunter, the huntsman, cracked a whip that echoed like pistol shots against the cliffs. The noise was designed to cause a fox to put its head over the parapet. One did, and the hounds were on to it immediately. The fox lasted three-quarters of a mile before being caught and killed.

Another supporter said: "These are not posh hunts. Most of the folk here are country people who enjoy the sight of the hounds streaming across the hillsides and who

know the damage some foxes can do."

Mr Todhunter agreed that not all foxes were dangerous to livestock, but said that the ones who were caused havoc. "A barren vixen can go crackers and cut a swathe through a field of lambs. This is the most natural way of keeping the fox numbers down — animal against animal."

The Cumbrian fell packs together dispatch about 500 foxes from September to May. The hounds then become available to farmers troubled by foxes. At least 30 requests for help may be expected every January time.

The hunt has been the target of protests by hunt saboteurs and an attempt was made to dig up John Peel's bones from Caldbeck churchyard.

Rain swept across Carrock Fell, dampening the huntsman's bright red jacket and the enthusiasm of followers. The Blencathra called it a day, but not before the fox population had been reduced by four.



Pack leader: original Lakes huntsman John Peel

Grouse shoots bring in £10m

BY JOHN YOUNG

GROUSE shooting contributes more than £10 million to the Scottish economy and generates over 2,300 jobs, a report from Strathclyde University suggests.

Although grouse moors are rarely profitable to their owners, the indirect impact of shooting forms an important part of the Scottish rural economy, the report commissioned by the Game Conservancy Council concludes. Nine per cent of grouse shooters come from outside Scotland and, in addition to direct expenditure on shooting, they also spend money on equipment, accommodation, food, drink and travel.

Improving the heather for grouse has important benefits for plant and animal life, the report says. This concurs with recent RSPB research which noted that grouse

shooting was the only significant land use which maintained the habitats of some of the more sensitive birds.

Among the activities of conservation, importance were heather burning, predator control, the limitation of cattle and deer numbers, bracken control, fencing to exclude sheep and controlled public access. However, the numbers of grouse were depressed by increasing numbers of predators, particularly raptors protected by law.

The report estimates that there are 486 grouse moors in Scotland, averaging 9,500 acres inside. In 1989, 22,809 days' shooting were let, resulting in a bag of 266,000 birds. However, three quarters of the moors are run at a loss and the report recommends more positive incentives.

Record forecast looks a long shot

BY THE year 2000, the world record holder in the marathon may be a woman, according to two American scientists who have studied the records in running events and concluded that men are losing their lead.

By the middle of next century, men can expect to be outpaced in all events from the 200 metres to the marathon if trends continue, the scientists say.

The conclusion was yesterday received sceptically by athletics experts, including a former medical adviser to the British team, Dr Peter Sperryn. "I don't believe it," he said.

Even the two scientists making the claim, Bryan Whipp and Susan Ward, of the School of Medicine at the University of California, concede that, at first sight, it appears improbable. None of the women record holders in any of the events can meet the men's qualifying standard for the 1992 Olympic games. However, the gap is closing, they say.

The scientists have calculated the average speed for men and women over a range of distances for as far back as records are reliable. The results, published today in *Nature*, show a linear increase in speeds for both sexes in all events studied. Women's speeds, however, are improving markedly faster than men's.

"Despite the pitfalls, we could not resist extrapolating these record progressions into the future," the scientists say. They argue that the rapid improvement of women, if sustained, will take them past men at most distances by the middle of next century.

The earliest test of the theory will come in the marathon, where the improvement in women's speeds has

Predictions from American scientists that women will overhaul men in most running events by the middle of the next century are proving a non-starter among sceptical athletes, Nigel Hawkes reports

been especially rapid. The figures suggest that women should be running faster marathons than men by 1998. By then, the world record should be two hours, one minute, 59 seconds.

The odd feature of the figures is the way in which both men's and women's speeds have increased consistently and linearly since reliable records began — male records at the end of last century, and women's in the 1920s. Different training regimes, improving tracks and greater physiological knowledge are not

discernible in the graphs, which follow virtually identical slopes for all events.

The only differences are that women's speeds are increasing twice as fast as men's, and that marathon speeds for both sexes are improving more rapidly than other events' speeds. The scientists cannot explain this.

Dr Sperryn believes that it is wrong to project the lines forward. "If you extrapolate far enough, you run out of common sense," he said. Dr Sperryn sees basic physiological differences between



Gunnell: says speed gap is narrowing



McColgan: thinks the figures distort picture

men and women, in particular production of the sex hormone testosterone by men, as creating a permanent gap in potential.

"Wherever there is an element of strength involved, men will win," Dr Sperryn said. "Of course, you will always get muscular women who can beat rather weedy men... but it seems impossible to me that even the toughest women will ever beat the toughest men."

Women's best chances were in events where endurance was more important than strength, and where their greater proportion of body fat was an advantage, such as Channel swimming.

Liz McColgan, the 10,000 metres world champion, said: "Unfortunately, there is no way any woman will ever beat the best man in my event because we simply do not have the physique."

"I suspect the figures don't take full account of the proportionally larger number of medium-standard men runners, and so give a distorted picture of the relative improvements."

In a few highly specialised running events, however, women were already breathing down the necks of male counterparts, Mrs McColgan said. "When it comes to ultra distances of up to 100 miles, we could well close the gap because a woman's body is better suited to going on and on because it has more fat," she said.

Sally Gunnell, silver medalist at this year's world championships in the 400 metres hurdles, said she would welcome a woman surpassing men in that event, but thought the day might be some way off. "The gap is narrowing all the time," she said.

Leading article, page 13

'Flawed' tests will waste teaching time, say heads

BY DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TESTS due to be sat by seven-year-olds this spring are so flawed that they will give false results as well as wasting teaching time, head teachers say.

The National Association of Head Teachers has written to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to ask for further changes in the national curriculum tests, after two previous government attempts to make them manageable and realistic.

"We are anxious that, despite the lessons of the last two years, we may be embarking yet again on an assessment process which is technically flawed, is unrealistic in classroom terms and will provide results largely unsupported by any process of standardisation and validation," the association says. It fears that "another cohort of children will lose an unnecessary amount of valuable learning time at a crucial stage in their schooling."

Announcing details of the tests in mathematics, English and science last month, Mr Clarke said that they would be more manageable for teachers and could be taken by whole classes at the same time. He estimated that they should take no more than 30 hours of teaching time.

The association, however, claims that whole-class tests are possible only in written English and that the amount of time suggested by Mr Clarke is unrealistic as it does not take into account the

reading test. Heads estimate that this will take an average of 30 minutes for each child, leaving only 15 hours for the remainder of the test. Alternatively, the total time required would rise to 45 hours for a class of 30 pupils. Heads also say that Mr Clarke has failed to take into account the amount of time for preparation, marking and recording.

Where group testing is possible, the association says, some children will inevitably be asked to do tasks that are beyond them, while others will be wasting time on tests that are too easy. In a general criticism of the tests, the association says that some of the wording is ambiguous and, in science, too complicated.

Schools to seek Gulf boarders

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE virtues of a British public school education are to be advertised to an expected 40,000 Middle East visitors to the fourth annual Gulf Education and Training Exhibition in Dubai next week.

The display is being co-ordinated by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) as part of an attempt to attract more overseas pupils to compensate for falling demand for boarding at home. Some 200 schools will be represented, including Rugby, Haileybury, Roedean and Mill Hill. Between 1984 and 1990, there was an 8 per cent increase in pupils at fee-paying schools but boarders fell by nearly 10 per cent.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said that this would be the first time that it had been involved in the exhibition, to run from January 7-10. It would stage similar displays in Hong Kong, in February, and in Basle, in May.

British boarding schools were seeking to build on their long tradition of educating pupils from overseas, Mr Woodhead said. About 3 per cent of boarders were the children of foreign nationals and he hoped the proportion would increase.

The Hong Kong exhibition, expected to draw more than 60,000 visitors from throughout south-east Asia, was the most important, Mr Woodhead said. Experience last year in Taiwan and Malaysia had shown that there was a lot of interest in British education, although there was fierce competition from schools in the United States, Canada and Australia.

'For the first time ever, Zwiirn Furs are forced to sell stock BELOW COST'

Barry Zwiirn

OUR BIGGEST EVER SALE DON'T MISS IT!

1991 has been a lean year for the fur trade - even for Grosvenor, Canada at Zwiirn. The recession is forcing us to offer this year's stock at drastically reduced prices to generate cash for 1992.



Top designers in Paris and Milan are bringing fur back to where it belongs - at the forefront of fashion!

And we can offer you spectacular savings on exclusive designer furs.

Save literally thousands on Blackglama® Female Mink Coats... on Chinchillas... on Lynx... on Silver Fox... on Russian Sables... and many, many others!

Visit our showrooms and see for yourself... Don't miss this opportunity before the market booms again... You're unlikely to see furs of this quality, at such low prices, ever again!

For example, we have Mink Coats for as little as £1275!

GROSVENOR AT CANADA ZWIIRN

120 WIGMORE STREET LONDON W1H 9FD
TEL: 071-486 4671 FAX: 071-487 5661

New Year bargains at WH Smith.

Get there
before
everyting
goes.



Until January 20th 1992 we have reduced hundreds of prices. With so many bargains it's bound to be popular. So hurry along to your nearest Smith's and see what you're

There's more to discover at WHSMITH.

max down c
back charges
200 for a
area's £500
redraft
grapefr

Knock down eyesores in royal parks, urges design group

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT



Jenkins: report goes to Hestline next week

A DESIGN code for the royal parks in London, which would lead to the removal of unsightly buildings and garish signs, will be presented to ministers next month.

The proposal is part of a report on the future of the parks drawn up by a committee chaired by Dame Jennifer Jenkins, the former chairwoman of the National Trust. The 11 members of the committee, who include the architects Terry Farrell and Dame Elizabeth Chesterton, and John Drummond, controller of Radio 3, will deliver their report to Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, next week.

They will set out a design code for

new buildings which will require them to be in keeping with their surroundings. The code will also extend to the design of signs and other outdoor furniture, including lighting and seating.

The report will urge ministers to remove or redesign buildings which the committee regards as eyesores, such as the Lido and a modern boathouse on the Serpentine and what Dame Jennifer termed a "very ugly" block of lavatories in the Italian Garden in Hyde Park.

"Quite a lot of things that have been put up without anyone thinking about how they related to their surroundings should go," Dame

Jennifer said. "We need to look very carefully at where any new buildings are located."

The design guide has been inspired by the National Trust's policy of ensuring that everything is in keeping with the property.

The report will also call for improved arrangements for large open air events in Hyde Park, such as last year's concert by Luciano Pavarotti, although it is unlikely to recommend new buildings.

The committee has concluded that the most precious aspect of the royal parks is their sense of *rus in urbe*, bringing the country into the heart of the city. That must be

preserved at all costs, it says.

Opinion polling carried out as part of its study, which began in July, found that more than three quarters of people visiting the parks said they went primarily for the peace and tranquility. "They talked about the trees, the greenness of the place, the sense of being in the countryside," Dame Jennifer said. "That is something very precious and we must protect that. People value these things, even though some of the parks are coming under great pressure from traffic and the sheer numbers of people."

The committee visited Central Park in New York, Holyrood Palace

in Edinburgh and parks in Berlin, Stuttgart and Munich. "None of them have the feeling of getting away from the city that Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens offer," Dame Jennifer said. "London's parks are unique in offering a sense of going into the country."

The report is to be debated at a one-day conference at the Queen Elizabeth conference centre, Westminster, on March 5 and a limited number of tickets will be available through *The Times*. Anyone wanting a ticket should write to Paul Grice, DoE Royal Parks Division, Room C17/04, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

Abducted girl, 9, indecently assaulted

A GIRL aged nine who was rollerskating home from a neighbour's house after an errand for her grandmother was indecently assaulted after being abducted by a passing motorist (Elaine Fogg writes).

The man stopped the girl in Northfield, Birmingham, at 6pm on New Year's eve, and drove her three miles to a country lane. Police said that she managed to wind down one of the windows and scream for help before the man threatened her with a pair of scissors.

At Frankley Green, yards from the M5 and just outside Birmingham, he threw the girl out of the car and indecently assaulted her before driving off. She staggered to the road and flagged down a passing motorist who drove her home.

Police said that the man, who was driving a red or brown four-door car, was white, aged 30 to 40, about 5ft 3in with brown hair and heavy stubble. He was wearing a long-sleeved baggy woollen jumper and dark trousers.

Burning floor kills workman

A man died from severe burns while demolishing a derelict house at Ballygowan, Co Down, yesterday. Another man is in hospital but is not seriously injured.

The dead man, who was in his twenties and single, is understood to have intended to burn out the wooden first floor and the roof joists before demolishing the shell. He had poured an inflammable liquid, possibly petrol, over the floor. There was an explosion when the liquid ignited, and, according to the survivor, the dead man was engulfed in a fireball.

Patient dead

Margaret Tulip, aged 77, a psychiatric patient who went missing on New Year's eve from Winterton hospital in Sedgfield, Co Durham, was yesterday found dead on nearby farmland.

High point

A plan to suspend the roofs of locomotives from depot ceilings during maintenance, rather than put them on the ground, has won Peter Allen, a chargehand at the Toton freight depot in Nottinghamshire, the top £4,500 annual prize from the British Rail suggestion scheme.

Lifer escapes

Brian Curley, aged 30, of Northampton, who was sentenced to life for murder in January 1979, was being hunted by police yesterday after escaping from Derbyshire's low-security Sudbury Prison on New Year's eve.

Old hat

Firemen who feel attached to their old style yellow helmets can buy them at a discount price of 17p. Somerset county council is replacing the coal-scuttle shaped helmets with an American design with visor and neck curtain.

Plant saved

Grass cutting has been banned in part of a cemetery in Ancaster, Lincolnshire, which is more than 50 miles inland, to protect the rare seaside thrift plant which normally grows by the sea.

Washday blues

The West Middlesex Hospital in London is trying to find out why, over the past four months, it has received linen from 68 other hospitals including one in New York as well as hundreds of pillow cases from a shipping line and dozens of businesses.

Bank charges £100 for a week's £500 overdraft

BY ALISON ROBERTS AND ELAINE FOGG

NATIONAL Westminster Bank charges the highest fees on an unauthorised overdraft, says the latest edition of *Which?*, the Consumers' Association publication.

Going into the red by £500 for one week, bouncing a cheque and subsequently receiving a letter from the bank cost £84.19 before it put charges up on December 9. It would now cost more than £100, including a £30 service charge.

Paul Lockstone, for the bank, said: "We strongly discourage our customers from taking out an unauthorised overdraft. We would much rather they talked to their bank manager first. You have to remember that 80 per cent of our customers pay no charges at all."

The *Which?* survey of bad financial buys accuses other high street banks of providing a poor credit card service.

Midland Visa and Access cards have high interest rates, limit withdrawals to £200 per week and charge an annual fee of £10. Midland Bank also fares badly on customer satisfaction and efficiency.

Midland said: "We have appointed a retail services director to approve and review the services we offer. We also undertake regular questionnaires to find out what our customers want and we take the feedback very seriously."

Many shop credit cards are a bad option, according to *Which?*. Most shops charge interest rates well above those on bank loans. Rumbelows, the electrical retailer, and Argos, the catalogue company, are among the worst offenders. Only John Lewis, with an annual percentage rate (APR) of 23.8 per cent compares well with banks.

Peter Harrop, director of Rumbelows, defended the shop's credit facilities, saying that the high rate was charged to customers who did not have a bank account. This type of account, he said, is "a bit of a nuisance" for the bank, but he said: "The APR on our shop card is 32.8 per cent, which is roughly in line with that of similar shops."

In another report, *Which?* says that Kwik-Fit, the car repair company, gave some of the worst advice to customers. In an investigation of the eight exhaust specialists, *Which?* says that more than a quarter of the 43 Kwik-Fit branches visited advised an inspector that he needed all or part of a basically sound exhaust replaced.

Overall, more than one in seven of the 204 fast-fit centres surveyed by an undercover inspector driving a four-year-old Metro recommended unnecessary work.

The companies in the report—ATS, Halfords, Kwik-Fit, Motor Way, National, Smiley, Superdrive and Tyreservices—generally aimed to offer quick, convenient, low-cost services and replacement parts. Some of the advice given to the inspector, who told a mechanic at each centre that there was noise from the exhaust and asked if anything needed doing, was dubious, the survey says. One fitter told him that he needed a new exhaust before asking him what the problem was. Another told him that the part would eventually "go bang."

The only chain to do worse than Kwik-Fit, which has 433 outlets in Britain, was Smiley, with 76 centres based mainly in the North-West. Three out of eight centres visited advised unnecessary work.

John Beishon, director of the Consumers' Association, said: "Unfortunately, Kwik-Fit's record doesn't measure up to the claims made for it. However, we are glad to see that since we compiled our report, Kwik-Fit has re-emphasised and made public its code of practice."



Short: rating puts him fourth in the world

Glasgow grapefruit will stop the rot

BY KERRY GILL

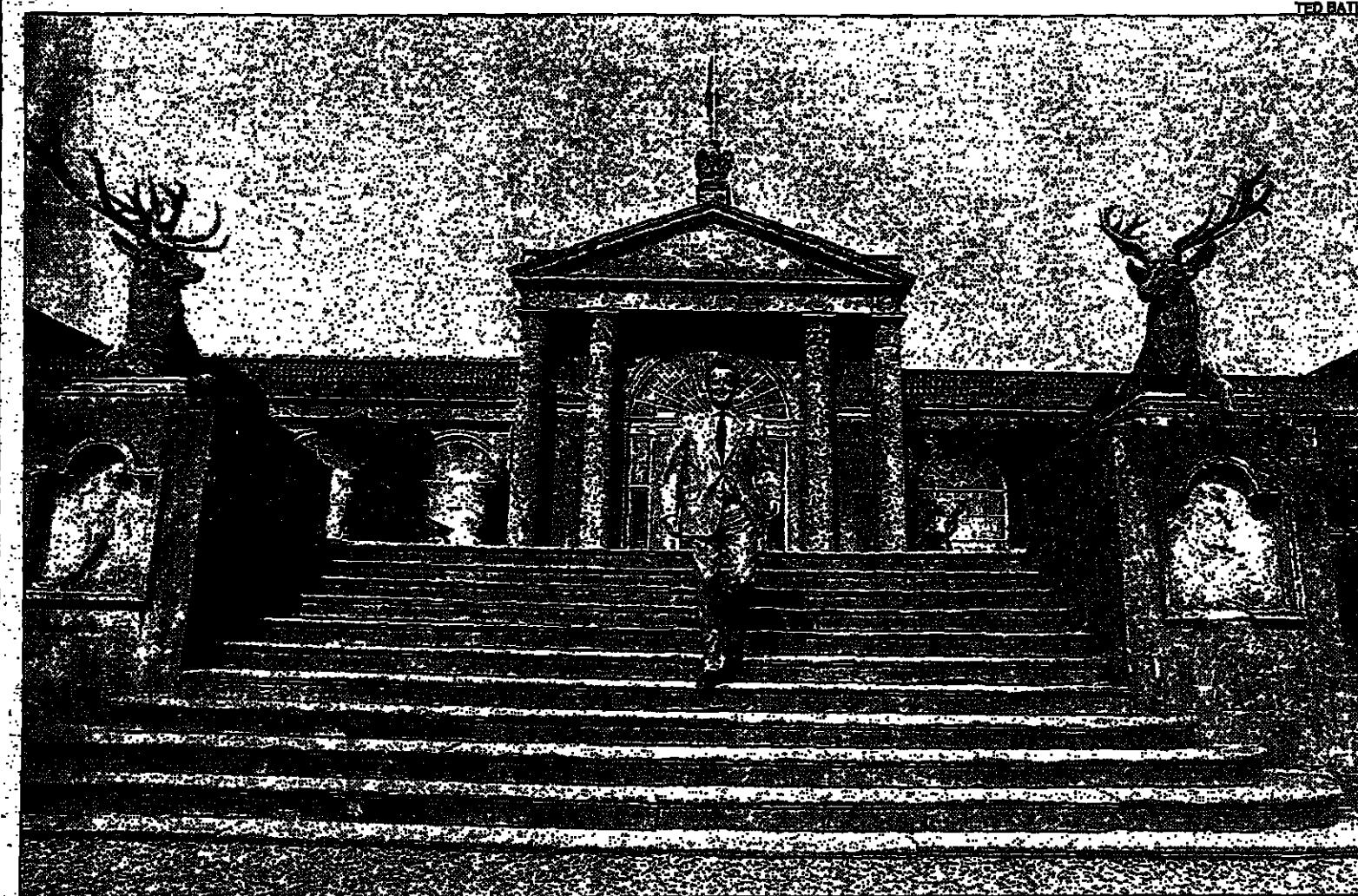
A DEVICE known as "the grapefruit", which could save trees from Dutch elm disease and extend the life of rotting telegraph poles, has gone into full production in Glasgow.

The device, more technically known as a self-dispersing fluid injector, can be fixed to the side of a piece of timber, where it delivers a controlled application of any preservative required without coming into contact with installation workers. It can be put underground or underwater.

The system, which is the

size and shape of a grapefruit, has been developed by a Glasgow company in collaboration with Glasgow University. It took four years to perfect and has won a NatWest/BP award for technology.

Perhaps its most interesting application is in the preservation of wooden telegraph poles, of which there are nine million in Britain and about 400 million world-wide. Michael Mason, of Unicorn Fluid Injectors, which will produce the dispenser, said that huge numbers of tele-



At bay: Lord Shelburne and his stag-adorned home. He wants changes in the law to let owners set up tax-free maintenance funds

Peer fights to keep heritage a family affair

IN WINTER sunshine Bowood, in Wiltshire, in many ways looks its best. The light, standing through the bare trees reflects off the lake, and the green rolling parkland, which many regard as Capability Brown's loveliest creation, is seasonally empty of visitors.

But not devoid of activity. Groups of estate workers are busy clearing the debris of fallen trees after yet another gale and builders are converting an 18th century farmhouse and barn into a clubhouse for an 18-hole golf course which is due to open in May.

Critics have described the golf course as a desecration of Brown's masterpiece. But for Lord Shelburne, aged 50, the owner of Bowood and president of the Historic Houses' Association, the £5 million investment is "our last punt" at keeping the house and estate in family ownership. "Last year was

appalling," he said. Visitors were down from 155,000 to 120,000 due partly to the recession and the Gulf war, but also to the fact that part of the grounds had to be closed because of storm damage. The net result was a loss of £158,000.

A halving of farm incomes over the past ten years has added to his concern about the future. Until four years ago 3,000 acres of farmland were intensively worked, with four large dairy farms and 1,500 acres under cereal crops. In 1986-87 the return was just £20,000 on a turnover of £1.2 million.

"Obviously we could not go on like that," he said. His answer was to allow the poor-

er grade land to revert to grazing for sheep, and to let the rest on short-term tenancies, and to contract the dairy operation out to independent self-employed farmers.

Although costs have been significantly reduced, none of the Bowood enterprises produces the income needed for the upkeep of the house and grounds. "So what do you do?" Lord Shelburne asks. "The only way is to sell off capital assets, and that is why I am very despondent."

In a recent letter to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, he pointed out that since 1972 some 400 historic country houses, more than a quarter of the present total,

had been sold and their contents dispersed.

Seated in his office at Bowood, Lord Shelburne forcefully argues his case for changes in the law to allow owners to establish maintenance funds free of income and capital gains taxes, which could be used only for upkeep and repairs. A condition would be that all properties were opened to the public.

In the past 11 years the government has spent £85 million, about £7.7 million a year, on "rescuing" historic houses for the nation and handing them over to the National Trust or English Heritage. As a former commissioner of English Heritage, he reckons that the annual cost to the Exchequer of allowing owners to endow their own properties would be no more than £3.7 million a year.

According to the British Tourist Authority, revenue

from overseas visitors last year amounted to £7,700 million and more than half of those questioned said they had come to see historic sites. But, despite all-party support, his appeals have so far fallen on deaf ears, Lord Shelburne says.

He believes that, without tax relief, Bowood will, like many others, join the list of houses like Kedleston Hall, Calke Abbey and Belton, which the government has spent millions of pounds on acquiring and endowing. Neither the National Trust nor English Heritage would welcome such a development, and the visiting public would miss the cherished atmosphere of houses still lived in by the families that own them.

"My definition of insolvency is when income does not match expenditure," he said. "Without change, I think places like this are remarkably unlikely to survive."

Public confused by advice on diet

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A FLOOD of dietary advice has left people confused and still largely ignorant of what constitutes a healthy diet.

Some of the strongest opinions on diet come from an age when bread and potatoes were branded unhealthy and fattening, according to a survey of 1,000 people for the Flour Advisory Bureau.

Half believed that pasta and potatoes were fattening, and a third thought the same of bread. Most identified as healthy those foods they perceived to be non-fattening: fish, fruit and vegetables. The survey by Nielsen Consumer Research found. They ignored fibre-rich starchy

foods, even though recent government reports have recommended eating more of them and cutting back on sugars and fat. White bread has a particularly bad image and was perceived as fattening by 52 per cent.

While a quarter were aware that they should be eating more fibre, less than 10 per cent said the same of bread, even though it is a big source of fibre. The reason for the discrepancy is that the advice to consume more fibre collides with the mistaken belief that most sources of fibre are fattening, and that fattening foods are by definition unhealthy.

Drinkers may get alcohol guide

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government is seeking a change in EC law to require wine growers and merchants to include the number of units of alcohol on their labels. Ministers believe that the change would help the seven million people who drink more than the recommended sensible limits to reduce their consumption.

Wine merchants and growers are permitted to include on their labels only the information specified in the EC wine regulations and these do

not include units of alcohol. But the measure is used in campaigns to encourage people to drink sensibly.

A unit of alcohol is 8 grammes or 10 millilitres of pure alcohol and is roughly equivalent to half a pint of beer, a standard glass of wine or a single public house measure of spirits. A standard 75 centilitre bottle of wine with a strength of 10 per cent alcohol contains 7½ units. The recommended weekly limits are 21 units for men and 14

units for women. Of the seven million estimated to drink more than this, 1.4 million are drinking at levels high enough to damage their health — 50 units for men (equivalent to a bottle of wine a day) and 35 units for women. However, a government survey showed that only 18 per cent of men and 19 per cent of women were aware of those limits.

Alcohol consumption in the UK stood at 7.5 litres a head in 1990.

LAURA ASHLEY
EVEN GREATER REDUCTIONS

Sale

NOW ON

IN ALL 177 SHOPS INCLUDING THOSE WITHIN SAINSBURY'S HOMEBASE HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES

سكناء من الاصل

East yearns for jams tomorrow

EUROPE is heading for a second era of motorisation, environmental destruction and increased vehicle emissions as Eastern European governments embark on ambitious motorway construction schemes.

By linking up with the extensive western European motorway network, the Eastern European countries are hoping to stimulate trade and ease the transition from centrally planned to market economies.

This month, the Hungarian government will invite final bids from international construction companies to build and operate a series of motorway toll roads, the first of which would link Budapest with the west European motorway system via Austria. Similar toll road proposals are also being prepared in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

But the toll road strategy has provoked sharp criticism from some Western transport analysts, who predict that the rush to build new motorways in the east will lead to the gradual decline of public transport, increased environmental damage and more atmospheric pollution.

Jonathan Bray, a prominent critic of Western European road-based transport policies, says that the decision to abandon urban tram sys-

The West may worry about too much traffic, but Eastern Europe equates congestion with progress.

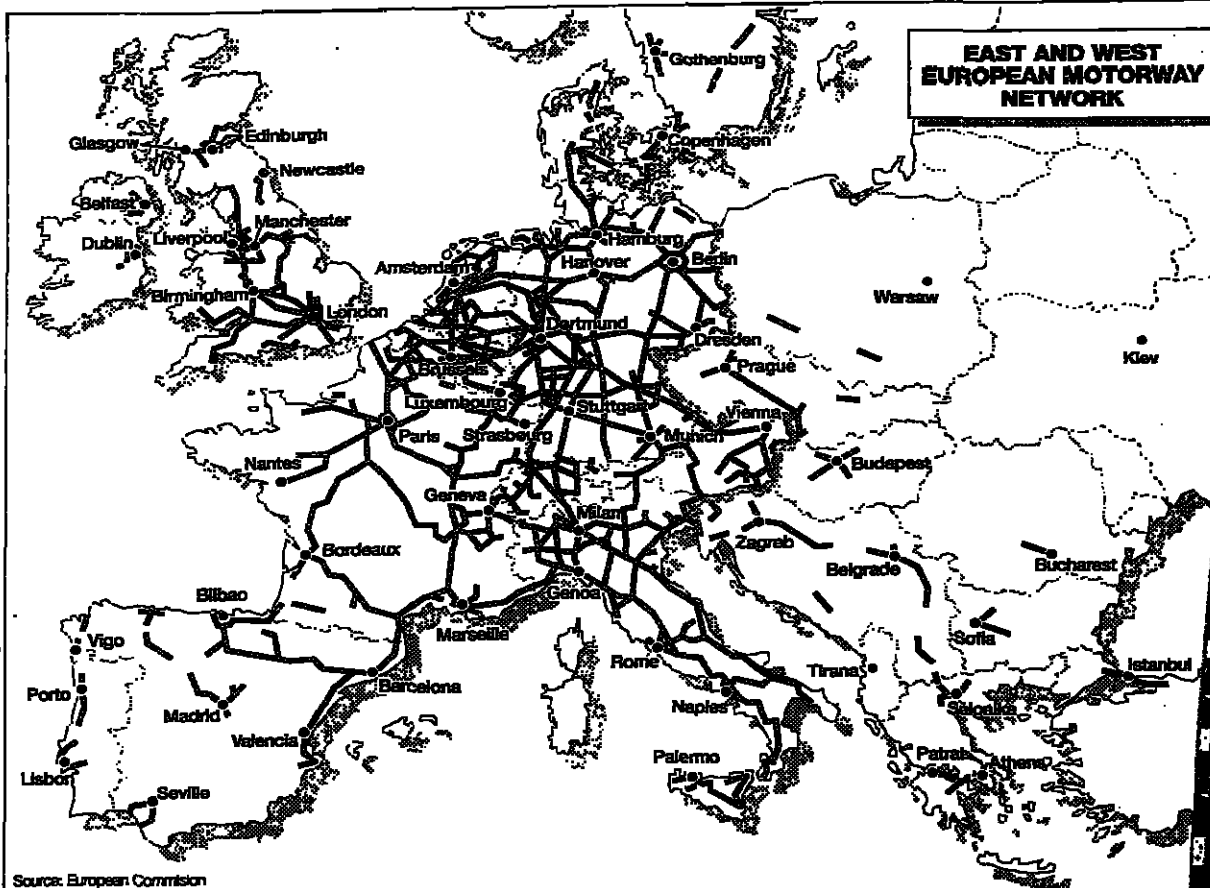
Michael Dynes writes

tems after the second world war lies at the heart of Britain's transport difficulties. Mr Bray believes that the demise of the tram was the first decisive move away from the promotion of public transport, which was followed by the development of the motorway network, the Beeching rail cuts and the growth of private car ownership.

In a pamphlet warning of the dangers of emulating Western road-based transport policies, Mr Bray said: "The parallels between post-war Britain and post-Stalinist Eastern Europe with regard to light transit are striking."

Because of the pressure to find a quick fix, Eastern Europe was opting for a road building strategy at the very moment when Western Europe had become conscious of the high social and environmental costs of private car ownership.

Such criticisms have provoked an equally sharp rebuke from Eastern European transport officials. In an in-



Joining the queue: Eastern Europe hopes that linking up with the West's motorway system will put its fledgling market economies on the road to revival

terview with *The Times*, András Timar, the former director of the Hungarian transport research institute, accused critics of naively applying Western solutions to Eastern problems.

Environmental policies which were winning political support in the western half of the continent, with its already extensive motorway network, were seen as tantamount to political suicide in the eastern half, where the motorway in-

frastructure was virtually non-existent, Dr Timar said. Eastern Europe's new political elites are struggling with the dilemma of how to satisfy material aspirations without the necessary resources. Dr Timar said that new motorways were the quickest and most effective way of attracting the foreign investment needed to boost economic growth, increase disposable incomes and satisfy the demand for consumer durables.

According to Alastair Dick, a Western transport consultant who has been advising the Hungarian government on how to attract the foreign capital needed to fund the motorway programme, investment aimed at modernising Eastern Europe's extensive but antiquated rail network would not show results as quickly as investment in new motorways. Given the mounting domestic pressures on the new political elites,

rapid results are what matter. Many Western observers fear that there is more than a grain of truth in Mr Bray's predictions. For Eastern Europeans, however, such predictions miss the point. People there aspire to the kind of traffic congestion which has become a feature of Western society. Indeed, their political leaders look forward to the day when traffic congestion is their biggest headache.



Newcomer is 200m years old

AUSTRALIAN scientists have discovered a rare group of tiny shrimp-like crustaceans, previously unknown in the Southern Hemisphere, in a remote cave in the north-west of the continent.

The animal, which belongs to the archaic group thermosbaenacea, is thought to have developed more than 200 million years ago. Gary Poore, of the Museum of Victoria, said yesterday.

The shrimp-like animal, only one tenth of an inch long, would be only one of 16 known species of thermosbaenacea.

They are of considerable interest because their distribution is so scattered, according to Bill Humphreys of the Western Australia Museum in Perth, who found the animal.

The closest relative to the new species has been found in the Canary Islands off the African coast and in the Caribbean region, Dr Poore said.

The animal, which lives on the mud at the bottom of caves, was collected by Dr Humphreys from fresh water in a cave on the semi-arid North West Cape peninsula in Western Australia.

The thermosbaenacea is thought to have dispersed by hitching a ride on the continental plates as they drifted around the world after the breakup of the ancient supercontinent of Pangea and then Gondwana.

The animal is unusual in that its eggs are deposited in a brood pouch on the back of the mother where they develop until they are large enough for independent life.

Taiwan to deport prostitutes

Taipei: Police launched a six-month purge on foreign prostitutes yesterday, especially those from Southeast Asia, Central and South America and South Africa.

Foreign prostitutes would be detained, fined and deported, and those providing places for them or operating such illegal trade would also be punished, the national police administration said. Local police chiefs will also be punished if foreign prostitutes are found operating in their area. (AFP)

Paid to relax

Philadelphia: Without lifting a finger, 18 men are providing NASA with data on muscle metabolism, all for \$100 (\$53 a day, complete bed rest and a liquid diet. The study hopes to determine whether supplements of amino acids can slow muscle loss. (AP)

Chewing freely

Singapore: Singaporeans chewing gum will not be prosecuted except where food consumption is prohibited, an environment ministry official said. Singapore has banned the import and sale of chewing gum. (AFP)

Population rise

Washington: The population of the United States grew by 2.7 million to 253.6 million last year, the US census bureau said. The bureau forecast four million births, 2.1 million deaths and 725,000 immigrants this year. (AFP)

Geordies vote Gazza big bore

Paul Gascoigne has been voted the country's biggest bore by BBC Radio Newcastle listeners because they are tired of his behaviour off the pitch.

The footballer, who is 24, was chosen as the year's



biggest irritant in preference to Cilla Black and Jeremy Beadle. Last year the same audience voted him man of the year.

Joseph Cicippio, the hostage freed last month, dreamed during his years in Lebanon of introducing his Lebanese wife Elham to the United States with the spectacular Rose Parade on New Year's day. Yesterday, at Pasadena's 103rd tournament of roses, he did so.

John O'Connor, Roman Catholic Cardinal of New York, arrived in Beirut yesterday to assess Lebanon's aid requirements. The cardinal, who is on his fourth trip to Lebanon, is expected to meet President Elias Hrawi, government officials and senior Christian clergymen.

Ray Charles, the blind American singer, once tried to drive his car, his son says.

"My father had a '63 Corvette, gorgeous car," Ray Charles Jr said on television. "He was at an intersection and he told the valet, 'I want to drive my car home.' We're all in the house, right, and we hear this bang! My father pulls out in the intersection and just totals out the Corvette."

Mel Gibson, the American actor who played Hamlet in the 1991 film version and commented the study of Shakespeare in a schools video, will receive the Will Award in April from the Shakespeare Theater for furthering classical drama.

Charles Haughey has rejected a plan for push-button voting in the Dail. The Irish prime minister is said to believe that the present Westminster-style method of walking through lobbies provides invaluable contact between party chiefs and backbenchers.

Dixons SALE

SAVE UP TO £300 ON AMSTRAD PCs

AMSTRAD APC386 HARD DRIVE COLOUR PC

- Fast 20MHz 386sx processor
- 40Mb hard disk drive
- 1Mb RAM internal memory
- 14" VGA colour monitor
- 3.5" 1.44Mb floppy disk drive
- Counterpoint graphic user interface
- MS-DOS 3.3 operating system
- Includes 12 months on-site service.

Was £1299.99 inc VAT

£1106.37 ex VAT

SALE PRICE

£999.99 inc VAT

£851.06 ex VAT

SAVE £300

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

AMSTRAD PC5286 HARD DRIVE COLOUR PC

WITH GAMES PACK 40Mb hard drive, 16 MHz 286 processor.

Counterpoint graphical user interface. Game pack with Soundcard.

Joystick, speakers and leisure software. Price of £1099.99 inc VAT.

£1049.99 inc VAT, £893.61 ex VAT.

SAVE £250

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

UP TO £200 OFF MOBILE PCs

PHILIPS PC4100

Was £499.99 inc VAT

£253.31 ex VAT

SAVE £246.68

ZENITH MINISPORT

Was £599.99 inc VAT

£310.12 ex VAT

SAVE £289.87

COMMODORE C286-LT NOTEBOOK PC

Includes 12 months on-site service.

Was £1299.99 inc VAT, £1077.99 ex VAT

£1169.99 inc VAT, £995.74 ex VAT

SAVE £130

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

PSION MC400

Was £299.99 inc VAT

£159.99 ex VAT

SAVE £140

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

SAVE ON BUSINESS SOFTWARE

MICROSOFT DOS 5.0

Was £79.99 inc VAT

£69.99 inc VAT

SAVE £10

LOTUS AMI

Was £119.99 inc VAT

£99.99 inc VAT

SAVE £20

ADATUM QUICKPLAN

Was £119.99 inc VAT

£99.99 inc VAT

SAVE £20

MICROSOFT WORKS

Was £199.99 inc VAT

£129.99 inc VAT

SAVE £70

SAVE ON LEISURE SOFTWARE

CHUCK YEAGER'S COMBAT

Was £39.99 inc VAT

£29.99 inc VAT

SAVE £10

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

At Dixons

YOU PAY NO EXTRA FOR 12 MONTHS ON-SITE SERVICE

Service is available for 12 months at no extra charge.

This is included with most PCs and Printers.

Excludes After-Sales Hotline Support

For advice on your new equipment or software, just

call our special DIXONS PC PLUS HOTLINE - 0800

707707. Expertly-trained staff will be on hand to help

you Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm.

Calls currently charged at 40p per minute.

Prices are shown both including and excluding

VAT. The price shown is the price you pay.

the BUSINESS CENTRE

Dixons welcome all major credit cards including Access, Visa, Style, American Express and Diners Club.

OVER 150 BUSINESS CENTRES. Call 081-200 0200 for details.

Written quotations from Dixons, Dept. MK, 54-58 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7EG. Dixons are licensed credit brokers.

Interest Free on selected items by direct debit only

SALE NOW ON

Children seek shelter from Yugoslavia's demented war

WHEN jets roar over the refugee camp of Mohacs in Hungary, Bosnian runs inside and covers his ears with a pillow. In Osijek, his home in Croatia, he was never bomb-



ed from the air, but instinct tells him air power is trouble. After a while a Red Cross worker tells him it is safe to come out: they were friendly Hungarian planes, not Yugoslav army fighters. Reassured, Bosnian goes outdoors to play Croatian heroes against Serbian Chetniks.

Psychiatrists say that it will be some time before the full mental damage to thousands of Yugoslav children can be assessed. They sleep, sometimes 16 to a room, in the old worker militia barracks at Mohacs, some seven miles north of the Yugoslav border. Maya, aged 12, says nobody sleeps much: "Somebody is always having a nightmare."

Europe's nightmare is this: 550,000 people forced to leave their homes in the past six months. The United Nations says it is Europe's biggest forced population movement since the second world war.

Apert from Austria, which has taken more than 10,000 refugees, and Hungary, which is taking 12,000 a month, few people seem to be noticing. For most European

The flight of Croats is Europe's biggest exodus since the last war, Roger Boyes writes from Mohacs, southern Hungary

Community leaders, the war is a military or diplomatic problem; the human misery has slipped out of view.

At the Nagayad camp, near Lake Balaton, and the seven reception centres strung along the Hungarian-Yugoslav border, the most visible charities are the Red Cross, Caritas and Médecins du Monde. Young French doctors have been distributing medicines. Most of the adult refugees want tranquillisers.

The Yugoslavs are not as badly off as some refugees. All have a temporary roof, many as guests of families. A Cro-

atian school is starting up in the main camp, and the daily allowance from the Hungarian government, led by Jozsef Antall, the prime minister, is generous.

But the main reason for the European neglect is that a large part of this moving population is within Yugoslavia itself. Some 200,000 of the refugees have moved elsewhere within Croatia. And 200,000 Serbs have fled from Croatia to Bosnia or Serbia. Keeping track of such huge shifts is difficult. Some Croatian schoolchildren were, for example, evacuated from Osijek in September to Split on

the Adriatic coast which was then bombed by the Yugoslav army. They ended up in Zagreb, which may also become a target. But the new logic of this war dictates that moving has become more dangerous than staying put and so the children remain.

Many others have fled across the borders. On a map it looks simple to cross from the war zone of Slavonia to peaceful Hungary. But, as the refugees in Mohacs camp report, the border crossing of Udvar has long since passed from Croatian into Yugoslav army hands. The passage has to be made across country which, despite army assurances to the contrary, has been mined.

Nobody stops long at Mohacs. The refugees are shuffled on to make room for

others. In the beginning, Croats and ethnic Hungarians drove over the frontier in cars. Now they come on foot, without luggage or warm clothing. A woman aged 34 from near Valpovo said: "I was milking the cows, and the shooting started again so I went indoors and dressed the children, and left my home."

Those who fled from the Baranya region, the corn-belt of northeast Croatia, have no chance of recovering their homes. At the end of September, the "regional parliament" of the now Serbian-controlled area declared that any home or farmstead not reclaimed in 30 days would be confiscated. The homes will be handed over to Serbian settlers and so the mixed Serbo-Croatian region will become solely Serbian. That,

after all, is the point of the war. About two-thirds of the 20,000 Croats of the Baranya region have fled.

The ethnic Hungarians who cross the border to Szeged, and who are promptly settled with cat families, tell stories from their part of the front. Waiting to sign up at the Szeged police station, a weather-beaten farmer told of a cousin pulled out of bed to be press-ganged into the federal army: "He was in the frontline, near Vukovar, and was wounded within a week. When his mother visited him he said he had seen the body of a Hungarian friend—shot while fighting for the Croats." Hungarians killing Hungarians in a foreign country—it is a demented war.



Antall: his government provides generous help

Vance mission, page 1

Ukraine matches Yeltsin price rises

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

FOR the three-quarters of the population of the former Soviet Union who live in Russia and Ukraine, today is day zero. They will wake up this morning to a brave new world in which seven decades of rigid economic centralisation and heavy state subsidies have been declared a "mistake" and everything costs what it costs, not what the state decrees it should.

When the shops open today bread and milk will cost up to four times what they cost on Tuesday, butter and cooking oil up to five times as much, train and air tickets will have increased in cost several times over, and even the vodka to bring oblivion will cost more than 20 roubles a bottle, almost two days' average wage last year.

These multiple price rises for "staples" are only a fragment of the picture. Almost all other retail prices and many wholesale prices as well—including prices for agricultural produce—will be allowed to float free.

No one has ventured any credible prediction of what will happen. Many prices could shoot up 10 or 20 times initially, leaving a majority living off the limited diet of "staples" whose price will be regulated, or reduced to, patronising as yet non-existent soup kitchens.

January 2 has been awaited with fear on both sides of the political fence. Russian leaders, starting with President Yeltsin, insist there is no alternative if the country's economic ills are to be cured and have appealed to people not to panic. The architect of the reforms, Yegor Gaidar, assured reporters there would be no civil unrest despite attempts by pressure groups to organise street protests. The Russian government is

believed to have contingency plans, however, just in case their predictions of calm prove wrong.

The population at large fear the uncertainty above all else. They have experienced sharp overnight price rises before, but there has never before been the prospect of completely open-ended increases. The Russian government has pledged hefty increases in pensions, grants and public sector salaries. Industry and agriculture, however, are being left mostly to look after themselves.

Russia planned its price reforms three months ago, originally naming December 16



Gaidar: says there will be no civil unrest

"day zero". When the commonwealth was founded, Mr Yeltsin agreed to delay for two weeks to give neighbouring republics a chance to catch up. In spite of pressure from Ukraine to delay further, however, he stood firm and Ukraine has been forced to liberalise prices today, too. Belorussia follows next week. Ukraine was caught between two evils. If it held back prices, Russians would come across the republic border in their thousands to plunder Ukraine's cheaper and more

plentiful food stocks. If it released prices before it was ready—as it has now decided to do—the authorities must brace themselves for the impact on a population which has not been prepared psychologically and for the practical problems of replicating in a hurry.

But with new 100, 200 and eventually 1,000 rouble notes being printed, any difficulty should be only temporary. Russia's team of young economic reformers calculates that once prices are freed, they will initially soar and then settle down to a level which reflects supply and demand. An unstated hope is that the mass of goods which currently goes through the state sector will start to be traded through legitimate channels.

Opposition to the changes is fierce, however. Aleksandr Rutskoi, Mr Yeltsin's vice-president, speaks for many when he says that the price liberalisation has not been properly thought out, that it will divide rich from poor to a degree that will be politically unacceptable—and most crucially—that it will not bring goods into the shops. Mr Rutskoi's fears are supported by several economists who argue that there is no point in liberalising prices until privatisation has supplied the basis for higher productivity and competition.

On new year's eve, evidence could be found on the streets to support both hypotheses. Prices of meat and vegetables in the peasants' markets, where supposedly free prices are actually controlled by black marketeers, reached unprecedented levels, with a chicken fetching 250 roubles, or three weeks' wages.

Ukraine and IMF, page 28

THE COST OF STAPLES IN THE FORMER USSR			
The first figure is the subsidised state price for each item (in roubles); the second figure is the private market price (in roubles); the third figure is the number of hours an average worker must work to purchase that item at the private market rate (based on about 175 hours of work a month). The average worker earns 350 roubles a month, equivalent to about £4.37 at the floating exchange rate.			
Smoked sausage	35.5 per lb	68.2 per lb	34 hours
Chicken	15.5 per lb	36.4 per lb	18 hours
Butter	1.5 per lb	5.2 per lb	27 hours
Muesli	1.1 per lb	9.1 per lb	41 hours
White bread	0.32 per lb	not for sale	
Sugar	1.1 per lb	not for sale	
Fresh fish (carp)	5.5 per lb	not for sale	
Milk	0.55 per litre	30 per litre	15 hours
Cigarettes	0.55 per pack (20)	8	4 hours
Women's dress shoes	420 per pair	1,500	750 hours
Men's dress shoes	250 per pair	1,000	500 hours
Child's dress shoes	15 per pair	300	150 hours
Pantyhose	15 per pair	120	60 hours
Women's skirt	200	1,500	750 hours
Petrol	0.40 per litre	3 per litre	11 hours

EC flag raised in Lisbon

FROM REUTER IN LISBON

PORTUGAL took over the European Community presidency for the first time yesterday and said the EC represented a beacon of stability and progress in a turbulent world.

President Soares and Anibal Cavaco Silva, the prime minister, watched the Community's flag hoisted at the new Belem Cultural Centre, where most EC meetings will be held during Portugal's six months in office.

Senior Soares said earlier in his New Year message to the nation that the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe had created a "tremendously complex" situation and the Yugoslav conflict had brought war to Europe for the first time in 46 years.

TV puppets do their bit for stability

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

PRESIDENTS may come and go, the state may vanish from the map, but one comforting feature of life goes on: some time between 8 and 9pm a blue sky covered with stars appears on television screens and a tinkling tune whisks viewers into the magic and innocent world of Khrushka the pig, Stepashka the rabbit, and Filya the dog.

Good Night, Children has been on the air for 27 years, a product, like Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, of Khrushchev's cultural thaw. The puppets are battered. Khrushka (pigs say "khrushka" in Russian) has a chipped ear. But the grip of his little pink trotters, in the hands of actress Natalya Derzhavina, is as firm as ever.

Khrushka is the darling of the programme. He has a

penchant for practical jokes and mild disobedience. His voice has the serious, piping tone of Russian children, and he gets several hundred phone calls every day. Filya, a floppy-eared shaggy dog of indeterminate breed, is the



Khrushka the pig: a practical joker

sort to whom things have to be explained several times, slowly and in words of one syllable. The grey rabbit, Stepashka (a mock-rustic name), is Khrushka's stooge. Easily led, he has ears which wag in opposite directions when he is excited.

What all the characters have in common is their kindness and lack of malice. They have also, in spite of the programme's captive audience and virtual monopoly of children's broadcasting, been entirely free of politics. From time to time they dispense gentle lessons in survival: which mushrooms not to pick, the perils of ignoring pedestrian traffic lights, the wisdom of asking a policeman the way, but nothing more didactic than that.

Early in December, Good Night, Children was trans-

planted in its old, familiar studio near the centre of town to the vast empire of State Television on the northern outskirts. The move was completed in time for the new-year programme to be taped, with the participation of five trained cats, a professor of physics with a false nose and a red hat, and your correspondent.

Perhaps for the first time, the programme contained something close to a political message. "Remember," said the professor, "that however hard it is for you, it is even harder for your mother and father. Do all you can to help them."

"Of course we will," chorused the puppets in reply. Thus will Khrushka, Filya and Stepashka make their small contribution to social stability this winter.



Unhappy new year: a young woman weeps outside her heavily damaged home in Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, after fierce fighting yesterday between troops loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the republic, and opposition forces led by Tengiz Kitomani

Tbilisi rebels predict fall of parliament building

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

GEORGIA'S rebel national guard commander under-look yesterday to seize the parliament building in Tbilisi within 11 days, even at a high cost in lives. "A storming is inevitable... and it is likely that a lot of people will be killed," Tengiz Kitomani said, going on to describe the President Gamsakhurdia, his former boss, as a satan who must be overthrown.

Moments after he spoke to reporters at the former Institute of Marxist Theory, where his forces are based, a new-year lull in the ten-day conflict came to an abrupt end with several hours of single shots and automatic fire. With a well-developed sense of impending danger, residents of the city centre, which only a month ago was one of the most enchanting in the world, began drifting away from the combat zone as the fighting was about to begin.

Mr Kitomani said that the chances of a peaceful settlement between loyalists and rebels had plummeted after the pro-government forces broke a ceasefire and killed

one of his men on Saturday night. World opinion would understand the need to overthrow the president, he said.

Mr Kitomani, an artist, rejected Mr Gamsakhurdia's authority last August after being told to stand down his fledgling army as a concession to the leaders of the abortive Moscow coup. Flanked by unshaven fighters whose spirits seemed undimmed by the spartan conditions in which they had entered 1992, with only glasses of local brandy to celebrate, Mr Kitomani predicted that the task of toppling the president would be completed by January 13.

"We will all be back in our homes by the old-calendar New Year's day," he declared, claiming that the president, hiding in the basement of parliament a few hundred yards away, had surrounded himself with teenage boys and girls as a shield against attack.

Neither this, nor the suggestion from other opposition commanders that dysentery had broken out in the embat-

ted government building, could be confirmed by the few visitors able to brave a hail of bullets to enter the premises. The several hundred fighters guarding the president were reported to be more nervous than before, but in nothing like the disarray that wishful opposition thinking has tried to convey.

A coalition of local parties opposed to the president announced its intention yesterday of forming a provisional government which would claim supreme authority in a republic where the machinery of government and ordinary police work has ground to a halt. But the success of this project, launched by moderate parliamentarians along with more radical figures like Gia Chanturia, who has just escaped from jail, will probably depend on the military outcome of a stand-off involving artillery pieces, armoured cars and small tanks.

Jaba Ioseliani, the pro-opposition militia commander who escaped from custody with Chanturia, is reported to have threatened to break open a jail containing hundreds of criminals unless about 70 of his volunteers are released. Fighters in the opposition camp said that at least 14 of their fellow soldiers were prisoners of pro-government forces, and they were likely to have been tortured brutally and injected with drugs, to judge by the account of one comrade who escaped from hospital.

Upwards of 70 people are feared to have died in a conflict that increased sharply on December 22, a low figure when set against the vast quantity of ammunition that has been used in the once elegant street, whose historic opera and theatre buildings have both been damaged.

While the range of forces deployed against the president has grown in recent days, and expanded yesterday to include the commander of a small unit deployed at the television tower in a strategic area overlooking the city, reports from the presidential camp suggested that the loyalist forces included professional soldiers with combat experience. Many women sympathisers were in the headquarters of both sides.

Revival plan shows darker side of Brittany resort

Feuding over a new breakwater project off the port of Trébeurden has turned neighbour against neighbour, Philip Jacobson writes from Paris

For the first time in memory, the new year was ushered in without official celebrations in the little Breton seaside resort of Trébeurden, where feuding over a seaside development project has turned neighbour against neighbour.

There were no festive decorations, no fairy lights, and gossip in the bars around the old harbour was mostly about what 1992 would bring in the saga of the "forbidden breakwater". For almost two years this unattractive stone construction has been reaching out from Trozoul beach, once a favourite spot for holidaymakers to set out their sunshades and deck chairs.

Now some 300 yards long and surrounded by iron piles driven into the sea where building work on a marina with berths for 560 pleasure boats has been going on, the breakwater dominates the front.

The project, almost 90 per cent complete, should have been finished last summer but it ran into stiff opposition from a lobby uniting some of the town's 3,000 residents in a common front with ecologists concerned about the impact of such development on this stretch of the rugged pink granite coastline of northern Brittany. Nine months ago the authorities ordered the work stopped, and although the developers subsequently submitted modifications that allowed them to continue, a Rennes court issued another order to stop work a few days before Christmas.

By then feelings were running high in Trébeurden and the affair had been given a new twist with the arrest of Alain Guennec, the town's go-ahead mayor, on suspicion of financial misconduct connected with the project, which had always been very much his baby. He conceived the infant, with enthusiastic support from the chamber of

commerce, as a means of reviving the town's dying traditional tourist business.

His supporters took to Trébeurden's narrow streets to stage a protest on Christmas day, when the council turned off the lights "in solidarity with our imprisoned mayor". There was muttering about undue influence exerted by outsiders owning holiday homes in the vicinity. "Certain families have a lot of influence in political circles in Paris and they used it to stop the project," the chamber of commerce's president told *Le Figaro*.

According to Pierre Dargat, Trébeurden's deputy mayor, the new port will open: he has requested a hearing before France's Council of State and wants Edith Cresson, the prime minister, to send an official mission to "sort out this business". Although he is adamant that the majority of townspeople back the scheme, opposition groups



say they hope to see the construction declared illegal and torn down. "It was never more than an exercise in pure megalomania and the state must pay for letting it go ahead," one prominent activist said.

The argument rages, too, between people who have known each other all their lives but cannot agree on what is good or bad for Trébeurden. M Guennec is still in jail, having been charged formally, and his supporters plan more demonstrations. Unconcerned, the cold seas off the remains of Trozoul beach still slap at the breakwater where the trouble began.

United Nations: pressing priorities await moribund talking shop turned global force

El Salvador pact crowns De Cuéllar's 10-year reign

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar signed off as head of the United Nations in triumph by brokering an accord that brings peace to El Salvador. "I am a free man; I feel as light as a feather," the Peruvian said as he left the United Nations headquarters in the early hours of the new year at the end of a three-day negotiating marathon which forged a compromise between the government and rebel leaders of the Central American country. Just before midnight, ending Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's ten-year tenure, President Cristiani and leaders of the left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front overcame final obstacles to a ceasefire in a civil war which has claimed nearly 80,000 lives.

The settlement capped a grand slam in peacemaking for the secretary-general, aged 71, whose stewardship saw the UN transformed from a moribund talking shop to a vigorous instrument of global diplomacy. Though the revival was catalysed by the collapse of East-West antagonism, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, a man of quiet persistence who once dreamed of becoming a concert pianist, has won high praise for seizing the opportunities opened by the historical change.

The El Salvador accord, to be formalised on January 16, crowned a string of successes which opened when the secretary-general won the confidence of Iran and promoted a settlement to the Iran-Iraq

war in 1988. His mediation also ended conflicts in Cambodia and Namibia, helped extract Soviet forces from Afghanistan and won the release of all but two Western hostages in Lebanon.

"It's been a really remarkable record, in many ways breathtaking compared to what the UN did in other aspects of its 45 years of existence," said Thomas Pickering, the American ambassador, as Señor Pérez de Cuéllar handed over to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian deputy prime minister, and left for a holiday in the Bahamas. He is to retire to Geneva where he plans to write and occasionally lend his services for diplomatic missions.

It was fitting that his final act in El Salvador should turn the page on a conflict which, though born of deep local causes, turned into a battlefield with Cold War dimensions. The United States poured well over \$1 billion into propping up the Salvadoran military and the shaky civilian government which it dominated. On the other side, the liberation front, a battle-hardened guerrilla force, drew its moral power from Marxism and its material strength from Cuba, the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and through them, the Soviet Union.

El Salvador was the last in a line of ideological battlefields where American commitment to human rights and democracy were subordinated



Marathon man: Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the outgoing secretary-general, making a point in protracted peace talks in El Salvador

to the need to back a brutal, or "authoritarian" in the Reagan parlance, regime. Under American pressure, the Salvadoran military, built up to 50,000 men, did curb their death squads and excesses in the late 1980s.

Reform of the forces proved the main obstacle in periodic negotiations with the front. Emerging from the talks, Safik Handal, the senior FMLN leader, said the accords "are going to transform the country. The army will be reformed, reduced and the

impunity of the military chiefs will be ended."

President Cristiani, an American-educated politician who has had to fight intense displeasure from the military and his own right-wing Arena party, welcomed the flexibility which he said the front had shown. Negotiations later this month will deal with dissolving their military structure and integrating them into civilian life, he said.

The peace accord draws on previously outlined schemes

to reform the judiciary, establish safeguards on human rights and reduce the armed forces to half their current size. A new security police force is to be formed and counter-insurgency units abolished. Two commissions will investigate the military role in human rights violations. Once the peace accords are implemented, Washington is expected to guarantee the final settlement and provide funds for reconstruction.

Leading article, page 13

Daunting challenges face Boutros Ghali

Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor, looks at the array of tasks confronting the new UN secretary general in trouble spots around the world

Boutros Boutros Ghali, formerly an Egyptian deputy prime minister, takes over as the United Nations secretary-general today at a time when the UN has never before commanded such international support or faced challenges in so many parts of the world.

From Cyprus to Somalia, Yugoslavia to Cambodia, the revitalised world body is playing a central role in brokering ceasefires, supervising the deployment of peacekeeping forces and organising humanitarian missions to feed, clothe and shelter the victims of war and famine.

Dr Boutros Ghali's most pressing priority is the dispatch of a 10,000-strong peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia. Cyrus Vance, the secretary-general's special envoy, yesterday announced that Serbia and Croatia have now accepted the UN peace plan.

On Tuesday the UN Security Council, in response to a German request, also asked UN envoys to investigate the feasibility of sending peacekeeping forces to guard a hydroelectric dam in Croatia, which Germany said the Yugoslav federal army was threatening to blow up.

Another peacekeeping mission is about to get under way in Cambodia, where the UN is supervising the power-sharing agreement signed in Paris in October. The current deployment of 300 members of the UN advance mission will be augmented by 10,000 peacekeeping troops and administrators of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia, who are to monitor the ceasefire and disarm and demobilise the four warring groups.

The UN will also play a key role in humanitarian aid to settle returning refugees, provide emergency food rations and help clear minefields sown during 21 years of war.

Elsewhere in Africa, the new secretary-general has already been asked by the security council to draw up a new report on establishing voting criteria in a referendum on the future of Western Sahara. The UN plan, drawn up on the basis of a 1974 census, proposes offering the inhabitants a choice of independence or integration with Morocco to end the fighting in the former Spanish colony by Polisario, the front engaged in guerrilla warfare against Morocco.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar produced a report which Polisario and several non-aligned countries said favoured Morocco, and the security council asked Dr Boutros Ghali to produce another.

The UN is also attempting to broker political solutions to two other long-running disputes: in Cyprus and in Afghanistan. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar was personally engaged in trying to bring together the leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, and Dr Boutros Ghali will need all his diplomatic skills and pressure to achieve this goal. The UN, meanwhile, has a standing peace force in Cyprus deployed along the line separating the two communities.

In Afghanistan, the UN, which brokered the Geneva accords that led to the withdrawal of Soviet forces, may now monitor the Soviet-American agreement to prevent new weapons reaching either side. It is also likely to be asked to help in the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled to Pakistan.

In the Middle East, Dr Boutros Ghali must supervise the enforcement of continuing UN sanctions on Iraq. UN envoys have negotiated with President Saddam Hussein on humanitarian questions since the end of the Gulf war, and UN forces are still in northern Iraq to protect the Kurds. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said this week that it would leave the northern Kurdish region by April, having co-ordinated international relief operations in the area since June.

Direct UN engagement in the Arab-Israeli peace talks has been kept to a token presence. Continuing Israeli hostility means that the UN is not likely to play a larger role for the foreseeable future.

Demobbed soldiers may turn to banditry

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

DIPLOMATS and United Nations officials in Cambodia fear that thousands of soldiers demobilised under the UN peace plan may turn to banditry because they cannot find jobs. Foreign envoys say the menace to order posed by the demobilised troops, who could number up to 200,000, is the most pressing problem facing Cambodia at a time when the peace process seems on course again.

Under the UN-sponsored accords signed in Paris on October 23, 70 per cent of the armies of the four warring factions, including the Khmer Rouge, are to hand in their arms and be demobilised. The rest will be based in UN-guarded cantonments. "Even if they are disarmed, weapons are easily obtained in Cambodia," said one diplomat who attended Monday's successful meeting of the Supreme National Council grouping all four factions. "The troops are very concerned about their future. The big worry is that they will turn to banditry."

Diplomats said the safe return to Phnom Penh of Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, on Monday — even if he did leave for Bangkok again after only 24 hours —

and the successful convening of the national council for the first time on Cambodian soil were reasons for guarded optimism. "All sides said the right things and seemed eager to push ahead with implementing the accords," said one diplomat who was present. "That signals to me that the momentum of the peace process has been regained after some serious difficulties."

Diplomats say that under the market economy introduced in 1989, thousands of Cambodians in the capital became prosperous in a war-fuelled economy. The troops who fought the war for a pittance will want to be given their share and will take it if they are not, the diplomats fear, so UN and bilateral assistance should be focused on finding something for the soldiers to do. Otherwise, instability could degenerate into anarchy.

Although this is only one of the problems facing the country, one of the world's poorest, after 21 years of war and political terror, Cambodians entered the new year with more hope than for two decades. The latest departure of Mr Khieu Samphan is not regarded as a setback now

that the national council, which is to work alongside the UN in implementing the peace accords, is to meet regularly. Diplomats assume he left to report the outcome of the council meeting to Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge's "brother number one", who has several secret bases along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who chaired the council meeting, wrote to the UN secretary-general asking for a quick deployment of the first part of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which will eventually include 10,000 soldiers and administrators. At the moment there are fewer than 300 members of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia in a holding operation.

Diplomats say the primary difficulty in the immediate deployment of the transitional authority is financial. "It is a matter of getting donors to cough up adequate resources," said one.

● Bangkok: The Khmer Rouge accused Vietnam yesterday of shelling villages and murdering women and children in the eastern Cambodian province of Kompong in attacks from December 13-15. (Reuters)

Bombers attack school

FROM REUTERS IN JOHANNESBURG

SIX explosions rocked a South African school yesterday. They were apparently the work of right-wingers angered by plans to admit black pupils to previously all-white classes. The blasts in the eastern Transvaal town of Nelspruit caused no injuries, but damage was estimated at two million rand (\$375,000), a police spokesman said.

No one has claimed responsibility for attacking the school, which is due to open to all races later this year. But right-wing extremists opposed to political reform are blamed for bombings linked to the start of talks between blacks and whites on a new constitution. Some whites have threatened to take up arms rather than submit to rule by a black-dominated government. Police say extremists are plotting to kill President de Klerk, the reformist president, and Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress.

Resistance to the ending of racial segregation has been strongest in rural towns like Nelspruit, where the prospect of multiracial schooling has caused widespread anger among whites. (Reuters)

Outback farmers flock to Canberra to beard Bush

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

A MORE tangible sign of the change in the world's priorities from military to economic concerns would be hard to imagine: where hundreds of peace demonstrators in kayaks and ferries once confronted American warships, only one boat yesterday pursued President and Mrs Bush as they cruised around Sydney harbour. Outnumbered ten-to-one by police and secret service vessels, the tiny inflatable was swamped in the churning waters around Mr Bush's luxury cruiser.

A woman baled furiously with a plastic bottle to keep the little boat afloat. An elderly



Book token: Barbara Bush admiring a gift handed over by Melanie Calloway, aged nine, a patient in Sydney's Prince of Wales hospital

man with a white beard cried out something about death in the world, his words drowned by the sound of marine engines in the stiff breeze. Mrs Bush, in a red dress that glowed in the sun, posed for the cameras, first in front of the Harbour Bridge, then in front of the equally famous sailing-ship Opera House.

Although Mr Bush has come here ostensibly to thank Australia for its support in the Gulf war, Paul Keating, the new prime minister, is looking for more substantial gratitude: the removal of American farm subsidies which are ruining Australian farmers. Today in Canberra there will be no avoiding Australia's new breed of demonstrators, who have flown in from all over the crippled outback to confront Mr Bush.

Washington's farm subsidies, under its export enhancement programme, cost Australia an estimated Aus\$1 billion (£420 million) annually in lost exports. Farmers are going bankrupt and leaving the land.

Promising a tougher stand against America than did Bob Hawke, his predecessor, Mr Keating said he would battle for the farmers when he meets Mr Bush. But the showdown will come when Graham Blight, leader of the National Farmers' Federation, meets the president. Mr Blight says he will not mince words when he tells Mr Bush what a "fair dinkum" deal is all about.

Mr Bush signalled his complacency and response to his most loyal ally in the Pacific by saying yesterday that if Australians did not yet understand that the subsidies would remain, "they will by the time I get through."

One Australian Mr Bush went out of his way to see was Hugh Marsden, who was amazed to be invited to join the president for breakfast yesterday. Mr Bush had seen a newspaper photograph of Dr Marsden, an ardent admirer of the United States, running up the Stars and Stripes at his Sydney home for the visit. In publicity terms it made up for the American flag being earlier burnt outside the American consulate.

American condescension towards Australia appeared all too clear when one American commentator described Mr Bush's stopover here as a "body clock" stop, to readjust his metabolism before he flew on to the real business of tackling Japan over its own trade restrictions.

UK saw Peres as risk

Jerusalem: Shimon Peres, now Israel's opposition leader and regarded in London as a moderate, was seen by a British official in 1961 as a threat to Middle East stability (Richard Beeston writes).

Israeli newspapers have reported that the head of the Foreign Office's Middle East department wrote in July 1961: "Peres is a dangerous idiot who wants to frighten Arabs at any cost." Mr Peres, then deputy defence minister, had said the launching of the Shavit II rocket was part of Israel's effort to develop surface-to-surface missiles. David Ben Gurion, who was then prime minister, had earlier claimed the projectile was for meteorological research.

● Border fence
Delhi: India plans to fence the entire length of its border with Pakistan with barbed wire. P.V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, was quoted as telling reporters in the desert district of Barmer. (AFP)

● Plea to China
Hong Kong: Just one week after his release, Lau Shan-ching, who spent ten years as a political prisoner in China, led a mass rally through Hong Kong to call for the release of all Chinese political prisoners.

● Peking failure
Peking: China, the world's last leading communist power, admitted that it had failed to resolve many problems facing its 1.1 billion people, and said it would speed up reform this year. The People's Daily reported. (AFP)

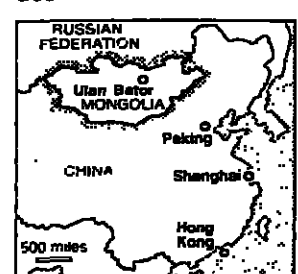
● Hangings call
Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein's eldest son called for a return to public beheadings or hangings to crush a crime wave including car bombs. Uday Saddam Hussein made the call in his semi-official newspaper, Babil. (Reuters)

● Doctors' fears
San Diego: Mother Teresa remained seriously ill in a California clinic, suffering from bacterial pneumonia and a heart complaint. Doctors were said to be hopeful, but "very concerned" about her. (Reuters)

● Model crime
Elkhon, The Netherlands: A life-size model of Mikhail Gorbachev stolen from an Amsterdam wax museum was found after his resignation was found in a cafe here. (AFP)

Mongolian isolation deepens after big brother's demise

THIS is the first Mongolian winter without the "fraternal assistance of our big brother", as the Soviet Union was called by President Tsendenbal, the state's former socialist ruler. The implications of the collapse of Soviet power are being debated in the Great



People's Khural (the old name for Mongolia's parliament) which has been in session since November 20 attempting to draw up a new constitution.

Mongolia's future is the subject for discussion in the dimly lit blocks of flats in

Ulan Bator and the remote desert gers, the conical felt tents in which the bulk of the semi-nomadic population still lives. The Mongols are seeking to come to terms with a new political isolation which matches the country's geographical remoteness. Mongolia is sparsely populated. Less than two million people live in a territory the size of Western Europe.

Mongolia's economic crisis is exacerbated by its geographical position. China, to the south, has not forgotten that the Manchu dynasty ruled Mongolia for centuries until 1911. With the departure of Soviet troops, Mongolia can ill afford to antagonise China.

But stirrings of Peking's interest in Mongolia are evident. A number of Chinese delegations are now being sent to Ulan Bator to offer joint venture deals on generous terms.

In an unprecedented way, China is also courting Mongolia's cultural intelligentsia

Despite economic hardship, Mongolia is rediscovering its long suppressed culture and religion. Patrick Newman reports from Ulan Bator

and the officially sponsored first Mongolian film festival was held last week in Peking.

To the west lies the newly independent republic of Kazakhstan, but as yet there are no formal diplomatic links with Alma Ata. Mongolia has an ambivalent attitude to the Kazakh minority within its own borders, and cannot fail to be concerned by the nuclear arsenal on Kazakhstan territory.

The greatest problem lies to the north. Mongolia's vital hard currency exports must be sent on the trans-Siberian railway either east to the Pacific or west to Europe. There are increasing reports of Wild West style hold-ups of the train.

Within Mongolia, the

most visible effect of Soviet collapse is the old Russian buses abandoned in the streets of Ulan Bator for want of petrol or tyres. The rickety transport system, which depended on imports from the Soviet Union, has collapsed as the Russians now demand hard currency for the world prices for their oil and spare parts. The streets are largely deserted, apart from a few highly decorated lorries packed with Mongols bringing in sheep and firewood from the surrounding steppe.

President Ochirbat's new regime has not yet stamped out the old attitude to state property and nepotism. The resurgence of old traditions is also evident in the renaissance of Mongolia's own

eclectic brand of Buddhism, which is heavily influenced by prehistoric animist and shamanistic practices.

In a remote valley in the southern Gobi a fat and squat neolithic sculpture, has since pre-Buddhist times been worshipped as the age had literally the "rocky mother". The old valley was out of bounds under the communist rule, but within the past few months sacrifices have been made at the base of the figure. Her assistance is sought by many including the senior executives of Mongol Television with whom I visited the site.

Orthodox Buddhism is also enjoying a revival after a bloody suppression which included the mass murder of more than 1,000 lamas in 1937. Kashok Bakula, the Indian ambassador to Mongolia, is himself one of the highest ranking lamas in the world. He maintains an "open door" policy to the devotees who besiege the embassy. In Mr Bakula's

avidly read pamphlets, he urges moderation and advocates Buddhism's "middle path" as a possible solution in Mongolia's search for a cultural future now that the Soviet Union no longer provides the enforced model.

There seems little danger at present of Mongolia's traditional culture being swamped. It is now undergoing a revival after decades of imposition of Russian culture. Mongols now are free to sing and listen to ballads lauding Genghis Khan, an imprisonable offence under the old regime. They are replacing the Cyrillic alphabet with old Mongolian script.

Last week the Great People's Khural decreed that the alphabet will become mandatory in official documents from 1994. There are few Western visitors, and Western cultural influence is still muted.

Patrick Newman visited Mongolia on behalf of Yorkshire Television, where he is head of development.

The enigma and the Ecstasy

Users call them Love Doves and Disco Biscuits but, Thomson Prentice reports, there is growing evidence that a 'safe' designer drug can be a killer

The small white tablets were stamped with a dove of peace. Robert Parsonage, a Manchester teenager, paid £75 for five of them in a pub, but the real cost was his life. Within 24 hours he was dead, and the drug named Ecstasy had claimed another victim.

Ecstasy has many other names — Love Doves, Disco Biscuits, Denis the Menace, Rhapsody. In America, they call it the "hug drug", because it enhances the pleasure of physical contact.

The drug's combination of sensual stimulation, hallucinogenic effects and increased energy, giving a "high" lasting up to six hours, makes it a seemingly ideal accessory for thousands of teenagers who want to dance the night away at discos and acid-house parties. As a bonus, it is not chemically addictive.

During the past few years, Ecstasy has become by far the most popular illicit drug in Britain. As many as half a million people, most of them teenagers and young adults, are believed to use it. During this week's new year parties, thousands of youngsters will have "dropped E" as casually as they would swig a pint of lager.

While its popularity is increasing, so, too, is evidence of the drug's potentially lethal properties. Last year about six deaths in Britain were attributed to Ecstasy, and hospitals are reporting about 40 emergency admissions — a month, most of them teenagers, with serious side-effects.

Such cases are reported to the National Poisons Unit in London, a reference centre providing expert information to hospitals. John Henry, a consultant physician at the unit, says: "The number of cases involving Ecstasy is increasing. We had about twice as many reports in 1991 as in the year before, and although half a dozen deaths doesn't sound much among perhaps half a million

users, it is double the total of the previous three years.

Most of the deaths have involved massive internal bleeding because the drug can disrupt natural clotting processes. One girl was given 35 units of blood in 36 hours, but still died. A youth was given ten units in 14 hours. He, too, did not survive.

Doctors and researchers are also deeply concerned about the impact of Ecstasy on the brain. Some suspect it can cause long-term neurological damage as well as profound personality changes.

Last March, psychiatrists described in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) two Ecstasy patients with chronic paranoid psychosis. One, a man aged 28, tried to strangle his wife. He suspected her of infidelity, spied on her, and forced her to make false confessions. In the other case, a man aged 22 became convinced that his face was being deformed.

"An association with psychosis is particularly worrying because of the considerable increase in the use of the drug and its image as a fairly safe recreational substance," the psychiatrists said in the BMJ. "The growing recognition of the physical and psychiatric damage that Ecstasy can cause is overshadowed

by the lack of scientific knowledge about its effects. As an illicit drug, Ecstasy has never been through the same rigorous pharmacological investigations imposed on any legitimate drug.

"We don't know why a single tablet can kill one person, while many tablets have little or no effect on others," Dr Henry says. "We know nothing about the long-term effects."

According to Marcus Rattray, a



A danger by any name? John Henry, of the National Poisons Unit, which advises doctors on the growing designer drug problem, examines a sample of Ecstasy

biochemist at London University, and the author of a recent research paper on the drug, Ecstasy resurfaced on a small scale in the 1970s as a tool in psychotherapy. Because of its mood-altering effects, it was seen as a way of breaking down barriers between psychiatrists and their patients. As one psychiatrist, put it: "It invites self-disclosure and self-exploration."

From its medically-controlled uses, MDMA rapidly became popular as a recreational drug

in America and then in Britain, where it was banned in 1977 because of its hallucinogenic effects and its potential to be abused.

The drug's popularity surged in the mid-1980s with the advent of acid house parties — huge gatherings, often involving thousands of teenagers.

Ecstasy is mass-produced in underground laboratories, chiefly in Germany and The Netherlands, but police have raided at least one drug "factory" in London. Often the tablets are stamped with a dove, the emblem

of peace, giving rise to the "Love Doves" nickname. Almost 240,000 tablets were seized by British police or Customs officers in the first six months of 1991.

Dr Rattray, writing in *Essays in Biochemistry*, says: "The popularity of MDMA can be ascribed to its psychotropic (mood-altering) effects. Users experience a five-to-six hour 'high' which produces increased activity, mood elevation, and alterations in perception."

"In most cases there do not

appear to be any long-term consequences of MDMA abuse. For some individuals, MDMA can cause a severe acute reaction, including hypothermia, alterations in cardiovascular function, respiratory distress and intravascular coagulation, which may result in death."

Studies of laboratory rats suggest the drug damages neurones, or brain chemicals, influencing mood and behaviour, but whether it causes similar long-term neurological damage in humans is not yet known.

hospital they are usually severely dehydrated, exhausted, with very high temperatures and rapid heartbeats. They have internal bleeding on such a scale that in some cases no amount of blood transfusions and clotting agents can stop it."

The number of known Ecstasy-related deaths may be few, but they are frighteningly indiscriminate.

"I don't know why the drug hits some people so hard and leaves the rest unscathed, but there is an urgent need for medical research," Mr Jones says.

Dr Henry agrees, and says the National Poisons Unit is setting up one such project. "With a prescribed drug, it is relatively easy to monitor adverse effects through the yellow-card system used by GPs. But there is no such system for an illicit drug like Ecstasy," he says.

"So an accurate picture of the real scale of side-effects, and their long-term consequences, is unobtainable. In the meantime, we have to conclude that it is potentially a very dangerous substance."

100 years from the laboratory to a fashion accessory

Despite its fashionable image as a "designer" drug, Ecstasy is almost 100 years old. It began life in a German pharmacy at the end of the last century, and was patented in 1914 as an appetite suppressant, but never marketed.

All its current nicknames are much easier to pronounce than its chemical title, "methylendioxyamphetamin," abbreviated to MDMA by doctors and chemists.

According to Marcus Rattray, a

biochemist at London University, and the author of a recent research paper on the drug, Ecstasy resurfaced on a small scale in the 1970s as a tool in psychotherapy.

Because of its mood-altering effects, it was seen as a way of breaking down barriers between psychiatrists and their patients. As one psychiatrist, put it: "It invites self-disclosure and self-exploration."

From its medically-controlled uses, MDMA rapidly became popular as a recreational drug

in America and then in Britain, where it was banned in 1977 because of its hallucinogenic effects and its potential to be abused.

The drug's popularity surged in the mid-1980s with the advent of acid house parties — huge gatherings, often involving thousands of teenagers.

Ecstasy is mass-produced in underground laboratories, chiefly in Germany and The Netherlands, but police have raided at least one drug "factory" in London. Often the tablets are stamped with a dove, the emblem

of peace, giving rise to the "Love Doves" nickname. Almost 240,000 tablets were seized by British police or Customs officers in the first six months of 1991.

Dr Rattray, writing in *Essays in Biochemistry*, says: "The popularity of MDMA can be ascribed to its psychotropic (mood-altering) effects. Users experience a five-to-six hour 'high' which produces increased activity, mood elevation, and alterations in perception."

"In most cases there do not

appear to be any long-term consequences of MDMA abuse. For some individuals, MDMA can cause a severe acute reaction, including hypothermia, alterations in cardiovascular function, respiratory distress and intravascular coagulation, which may result in death."

Studies of laboratory rats suggest the drug damages neurones, or brain chemicals, influencing mood and behaviour, but whether it causes similar long-term neurological damage in humans is not yet known.

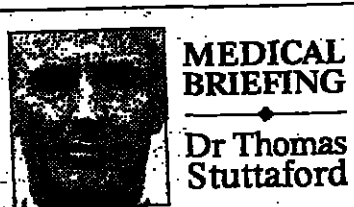
hospital they are usually severely dehydrated, exhausted, with very high temperatures and rapid heartbeats. They have internal bleeding on such a scale that in some cases no amount of blood transfusions and clotting agents can stop it."

The heart of the matter

MOTHER Teresa, whose life has been devoted to the service of others, may this week have quite unwittingly done another service to another medically underprivileged group — the aged. Mother Teresa caught a cough and a cold while travelling in Mexico and, as is so often the case in older patients who are not immediately and vigorously treated, secondary bacterial infection gave rise to pneumonia.

In Mother Teresa's case, recovery was complicated by heart strain secondary to coronary arterial disease. But the Californian doctors did not shrug their shoulders, mutter about her age, and prescribe "nursing care and fluids only", but arranged angioplasty, a procedure whereby the atherosclerotic (fatty) plaques are flattened against the coronary artery wall so that the blood can again reach the heart muscle which had previously been weakened by want of oxygen.

As the pneumonia is treated with the



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

antibiotics, breathing improves and the blood not only becomes better oxygenated but, now that the coronary arteries are cleared, is again able to course around Mother Teresa's heart muscle. Californian hospital authorities hope that Mother Teresa may be discharged within 14 days to continue her work but, being cautious, they warn that at her age — 81 — other complications might arise.

Writing in *Monitor*, the medical magazine, on advances in 1991, Dr Iain McIntosh has drawn attention to cardiologists' fears that there is an

ageist approach to cardiac surgery, so that patients who are old but otherwise well are being denied the procedures which would be routinely offered to younger patients suffering from the same conditions. He points out that improved surgical, and perhaps above all anaesthetic, techniques now enable elderly patients to be comparatively safely exposed to cardiac surgery.

Mother Teresa was fortunate. The angiogram, the X-ray studies of her coronary arteries, showed that the blocked vessels would be amenable to angioplasty and that bypass surgery would not be necessary. But in other patients of her age group, bypass surgery has been carried out — with good results.

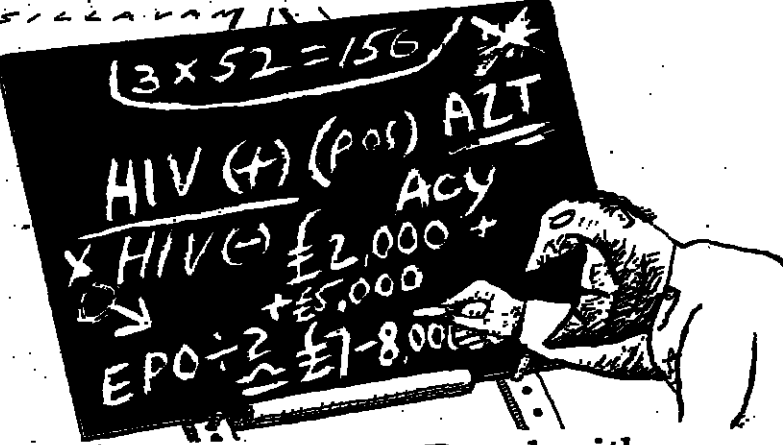
Any elderly patient whose activities are being restricted by the pain of angina, or the tiredness which follows coronary heart disease, should remember Mother Teresa, and ask for a few investigations.

Equations for life

ANTHONY Norman Aure joined the rush to the sexually transmitted disease clinic this week, not as one of the many casualties of seasonal revellers, but because it was time for his routine six-monthly check. Aure isn't his real name, or even the name we welcomed him under this week, or in the summer. But whatever his latest comic pseudonym, and whether with or without his beard, in casual clothes or office suit, we are always pleased to see him and respect his desire to preserve confidentiality.

Anthony, who is homosexual and in the summer was HIV-negative, is thrilled by the news that if acyclovir is taken at twice the normal dose and in conjunction with AZT (Zidovudine), the development of life-threatening symptoms in patients who became HIV-positive might be delayed. Although well-read and subjected to years of counselling, Anthony is still promiscuous — two or three partners a week, usually strangers or casual acquaintances. Condoms tend to be used with old friends, but Anthony frequently has penetrative sex, not necessarily with protection, with partners he knows to be HIV-positive.

The annual cost of acyclovir — £5,000 to £6,000 a year — is greater than the total old-age pension for a married pair and will have to be added to the bill for AZT, which is already just under £2,000 a year. It will be up to individual doctors to decide about the rival claims of other chronically ill patients, particularly those of renal disease, for the limited funds available. By coincidence, the cost of treating a patient with renal failure



with erythropoietin (EPO), is slightly less, about £5,000 a year. EPO, by stimulating red blood cell production, counteracts the anaemia which complicates long-standing kidney disease, and thereby alleviates the tiredness which has made every movement an effort for the patient, and has dulled their intellectual activities. However, because of the cost, and despite a parliamentary campaign, less than half the patients who would benefit from it receive it.

Most doctors will do their best for the patient, regardless of cost, and without thought of the nature of disease or how it has been acquired. But others will have to ponder the thought that although the individual benefits from the AZT-acyclovir cocktail, the treatment isn't a cure but will merely prolong active life, thereby increasing the possibility that the sufferer might infect others. The irony is that the better the treatment, short of finding a cure for the individual, the worse it could become for the community in terms of their public health.

Drunk with power

DOWN the ages, doctors and laymen have noticed that alcohol and digestion do not mix, but those injudicious enough to combine them have recently taken comfort in the thought that if heartburn, gastritis or the ulcer play up, one of the H₂ blockers — Zantac, ranitidine, or Tagamet, cimetidine — can come to the rescue.

But recent research, albeit involving a small number of patients, reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, suggests that both drugs may dramatically increase blood levels of alcohol after drinking. It is thought that these effects are due to an increased rate of absorption, but it should be remembered that both drugs can, fortunately rarely, cause liver damage. Until the question is settled, those who drink would be well advised to rely on over-the-counter antacids, or possibly take the rival to the H₂ blockers, Losac (omeprazole).

Lunn Poly
January Sale.
Save up to
£150
each.

SUMMER '92 DISCOUNTS

Cost of Holiday/Flight per person (excluding insurance)	Discount Per Person
£2000+	£150
£1500+	£105
£1200+	£80
£1000+	£65
£850+	£55
£700+	£45
£550+	£35
£450+	£30
£350+	£25
£250+	£20
up to £250	£10

Lunn Poly are now offering exclusive discounts on all overseas Summer holidays and flights departing between 1.4.92 and 31.10.92. All you have to do is book between now and 11th January and take out our holiday insurance at the same time.

Lunn Poly
Getaway for less.

Patriarch of a Gallic Europe

This is the second and final volume, excellently translated, of Jean Lacouture's masterly biography of de Gaulle. Foreign editor of *Le Monde* throughout most of these years, M Lacouture threads his way colourfully as well as lucidly through a mass of documentary and other evidence. As a fervent, but not fanatical, admirer of de Gaulle, he writes fairly and critically of his hero: as when he describes the General's nervous collapse amid the student riots of May 1968, or when he "indefensibly" refused an invitation to meet Roosevelt after Yalta in February 1944, two months before the latter's death.

De Gaulle emerges from the book not merely as a remarkable character, but as a rare one. Half soldier, half bishop: a devotee of literature and the arts as well as a politician; profoundly democratic, but often accused of Bonapartism; an orator who hated party politics; a believer in the lessons of history rather than in doctrine or philosophy.

The world for the General consisted not of ideologies but of nations. He shocked the Americans, Dulles especially, by treating the distinction between communism and non-communism as not at all that important. He detested supranational bodies, and once described the Brussels Commission as a "group of clever and perhaps useful men, but not a Government". His inner conviction that he had received a sacred mission to save France, regardless of all obstacles, gave him immense determination and courage, but hardly made him a comfortable colleague.

Did the General himself possess any sense of humour? True, when Paul Reynaud had been voicing pro-British sentiments, he received a letter next day addressed in the General's hand-writing, with no contents, but a note on the back reading: "If absent, forward to Agincourt and Waterloo". But was even this comment made in anger?

That de Gaulle rescued the broken and tormented France of 1944, and in the end raised her to a stronger political and economic status than at any time in the Third

Douglas Jay, a member of Harold Wilson's cabinet, on de Gaulle's vision of Europe

or Fourth Republics, and that nobody else could have done it, there can be no doubt. But the tragedy of de Gaulle's life-long achievement was his quarrel with Franklin Roosevelt, which festered into a creeping anti-American feud that still disfigures Gaullism even today. It was Roosevelt's mistake, understandable but unnecessary, to underestimate and indeed belittle de Gaulle throughout the war. Since de Gaulle normally classed all "Anglo-Saxons" as one human

DE GAULLE
The Ruler 1945-1970
by Jean Lacouture
Collins Harvill, £25.00

species, the Gaullist "animosity" tended to rub off on the British also. Was the General embittered by the Anglo-Saxon role in the liberation of France? Did Normandy rankle as much as Agincourt?

But the most tragic blunder of all was the fault of the British. One of de Gaulle's rare qualities was his ability to rise to rare levels of vision and magnanimity. He could and did praise the British with a lofty eloquence all his own. In February 1969, after saying "No" to British membership of the EEC in 1963 and 1967, he invited the British ambassador, Christopher Soames, to lunch at *quatre* with their respective wives. De Gaulle then made a novel and far-reaching proposal. Anglo-French talks, he suggested, should be started towards a "European Europe" of nations; and he promised that "if the two Governments could solve their difference of view, he would agree to study a profound trans-

formation' of the Common Market with a view to making room for Britain". There would be a looser economic arrangement and a resulting political association in which France, Britain, Germany and Italy would play a major part. He wanted the British to propose this and he could then welcome it.

This could have been an epoch-making offer, which would, if realised, have given Britain almost everything it needed, and might well have ended the post-war Franco-British tension once and for all. Of course the talks might not have succeeded. But since with the support of the General and the British government they would have had a fair chance, the offer should have been followed up. Soames informed the Foreign Office at once, recommending acceptance. Instead, the FO blundered lamentably over what misleadingly became known as "the Soames affair". In this case the General understood real British interests far better than most people in London. Yet though he made the offer in strict confidence, the FO induced the prime minister, Harold Wilson, who was then in Bonn, to pass it on to the German Chancellor, and also itself published Soames's telegram before the British Cabinet knew anything about it. According to M Lacouture, the FO even "distorted" the Soames report before publication. The General's reaction to the breach of confidence was fury. All chance of reconciliation was gone.

M Lacouture's account of this offer by de Gaulle only reinforces my own judgement that it was the worst blunder of British policy since 1945 — perhaps this century. It inflamed the worst Gaullist suspicions about the good faith of the Anglo-Saxons; and so hardened the Franco-German axis which is with us still. M Lacouture is wrong, I suspect, in attributing the FO's conduct to deliberate cunning and "deep distrust" of de Gaulle. It was much more probably due to misunderstanding of the issues at stake and a curious temporary belief that the Treaty of Rome was a sacred text. But whatever the motives, the consequences were the same.



The general and the ambassador: de Gaulle fails to overshadow the late Christopher Soames

Fickle muse of fire

Robert Nye

SELECTED POEMS
by John Crowe Ransom
Carcanet, paperback, £6.95

Poets are born not made, but some born poets are made poets for a brief while only. Something of someone made John Crowe Ransom write excellent poems for about four years, from the beginning of 1922 until the end of 1925. He was then in his thirties, a university teacher at Vanderbilt, the son of a Methodist minister from Tennessee. He had already written theological verse of no great interest or promise. After his muse departed he wrote a few more poems in the 1930s, of which only "Prelude to an Evening" is even reminiscent of the work of the inspired years. He lived on until 1974, respectable and respected, spending his latest years revising those early poems. I think these revisions should be ignored. Ransom the critic being demonstrably the enemy of Ransom the poet.

Ransom's *Selected Poems* is an important book. The body of first-rate work in it may be small, but the pleasure and instruction to be had from reading it can be accounted large. The scope of the poems is domestic, the poet's voice formal and ironic, holding passion at arm's length by delicacy of diction. A fierce aristocratic wit, held mostly in check, takes complete control of "Captain Carpenter", one of the very few successful modern ballads, and a poem which rises in its final stanzas to heroic heights. "Two Gentlemen in Bonds" is a sonnet sequence in which technical grace matches seriousness; its subject is the quarrel between body and mind, never far from Ransom's finest, "Survey of Literature" (Sing a song for Perry Shelley/Drowned in pale lemon jelly) says more in 14 stanzas about poetry than most professors say in a lifetime.

But Ransom's most moving poems are about death, death in a homey and familiar context, the death of children. "Dead Boy" mourns truthfully an unlikable cousin (A pig with a pasty face, so I had said). "Bells for John Whiteside's Daughter" is breathtakingly lovely in its evocation of how a young girl's geese might grieve for her.

*The lazy goose, like a snow cloud
Dripping their snow on the green grass.*

*Tricking and stopping, sleepy
and proud*

Who cried in goose, alas...

This is dangerous ground, one beset with possible sentimentality. Ransom traverses it both by his skill as a prosodist and by a scrupulousity of feeling which that skill reflects. He is also a preeminent love poet:

*Two evils, monstrous either one
apart.*

*Possessed me, and were long and
loath at going.*

A cry of Absence, Absence, in the heart.

*And in the wood the furious
winter blowing.*

This book should be in the library of any young poet, or any reader, young or old, who cares for poetry at all. They may treasure the wonders Ransom was given in the four years of his inspiration, and learn from the appendix of "pairings" of original and revised versions something of the mystery of what makes and can unmake a poet.

Beaming bureaucrat in gaiters

Owen Chadwick

ARCHBISHOP FISHER
His Life and Times
by Edward Carpenter
The Canterbury Press Norwich, £35

things right and tidy. This was wonderful at a coronation where he rehearsed till everyone was tired and the result was magnificent. It worked less well when others had their opinion and, being argumentative, he would persist long after it had begun to irritate the other side. He fought with the deans of St Paul's, Westminster Abbey and Canterbury, yet his three successors saw no need to do so. The worst moment in this book was when he did not give the sacrament to the kneeling Moderator of the Church of Scotland, not at all because he did not wish to, but because it was not part of the protocol. He insisted that bishops wear gaiters at private meetings of bishops. But this was pedantry, not pomp, for he was a man without pomp. He did not want to be grand, he wanted everything to be correct.

Ramsay MacDonald, taking the advice of William Temple, recommended him to the King to be bishop of Chester; he had shot his bolt as headmaster of Repton and

Temple cared for the good of the school. Woolly old Bishop Winnington-Ingram claimed to have caused the choice of Fisher for the diocese of London, but that is impossible to credit. He may have caused it indirectly because he left the diocese of London in a mess and Fisher had a record for clearing up messes. He thought of himself as an amateur, he believed that he was not a man of ideas and that his sermons were pedestrian. On education Fisher was no amateur and even though he had nothing like a charisma, if the subject was practical he could rise to a height of coherent oratory. Most people thought of him as a man without emotions. In this remarkable book, which does not omit the wars, we find him weeping three times: twice when he heard that he must be bishop of London, a fate which he

thought horrible, and once when he went as pilgrim to the Holy Land and, after being swept by a crowd up the road to the crucifixion, he wandered in Galilee. Churchill, who does not come well out of this book, recommended him to be archbishop during a world war, because he interviewed him and thought him tough. If it is desirable that the Archbishop of Canterbury be an administrator, then this choice was the best: he was good at budgets; and if ever there was a time when those qualities were needed it was in the age of reconstruction after the Second World War. His judgement on wider issues was less sure than his judgement on detail. He committed his Church, and unthinkable stretches of his own time, to an exhausting effort to revise the canon law, last revised in 1604. He

never forgave his denouncing of premium bonds as squalid and felt even angrier about his scorn of "You've never had it so good", so Fisher was no respecter of persons. Church and State sometimes had a rough time. He interfered outrageously in the policy of the British government towards terrorism in Cyprus and the person in this book for whom the reader feels most sympathy is the colonial secretary, Lennox-Boyd. His view of his office was so high that he offered to mediate between Macmillan and Archbishop Makarios. Some people disliked him. They wanted an archbishop who thought about God, like his predecessor Temple, or one with a depth of prayer, like his successor Ramsey. They resented his image as an able bureaucrat and a compulsive writer of letters. But unless a person got across him it was hard to dislike him, so jolly and beaming and exuberant and unpretentious was his personality, so comical his eyebrows and his spectacles pushed up into the non-existent hair. His staff liked him and admired him. People who sat under Temple's chairmanship or Ramsey's non-chairmanship sighed for Fisher.

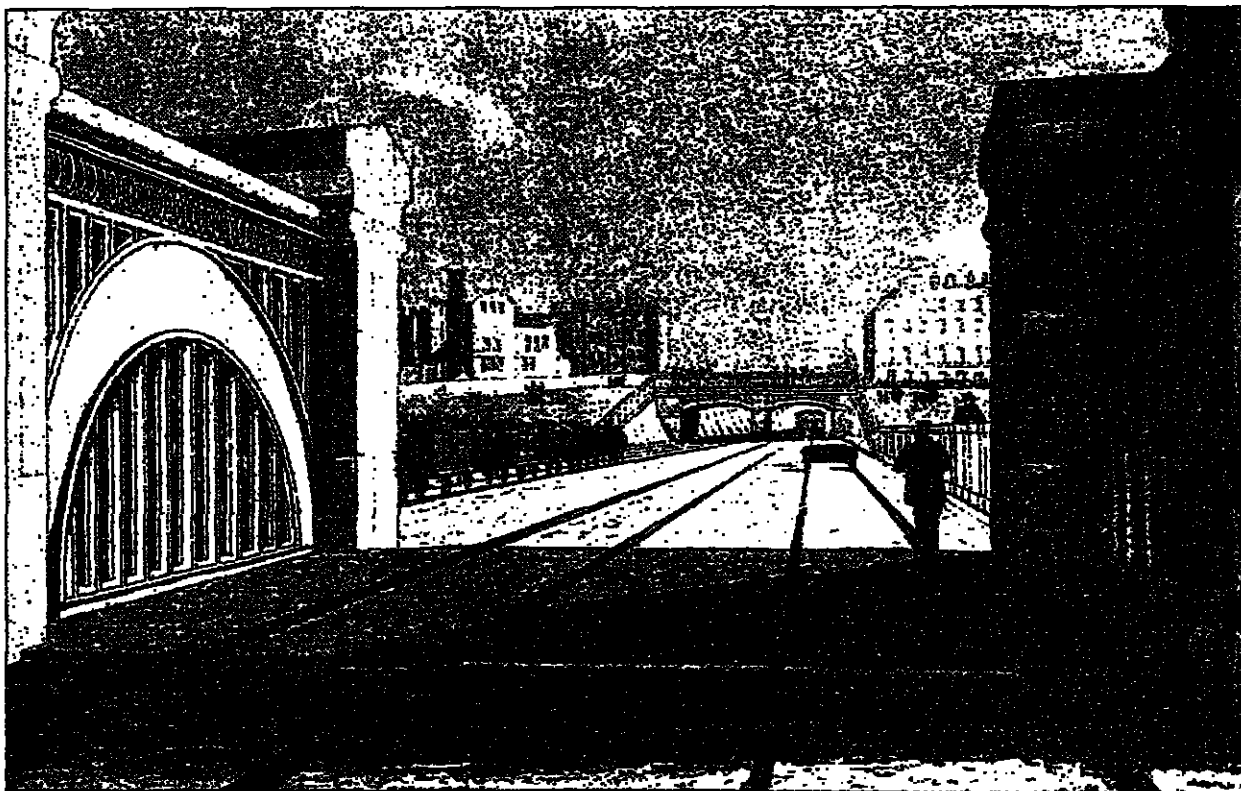
From gibbets to gentrification

Gillian Tindall

CAMDEN TOWN AND PRIMROSE HILL PAST
by John Richardson
Historical Publications,
£12.95

Held up in a bus the other week behind Camden's demonstrators, I wondered what the founder would have thought of it all. The operations of time and chance have finally extended his name over an entire contentious London borough, and made it a short-hand term for much more. But it is a mere 200 years this year since Charles Pratt, first earl of Camden, bestowed it on a rather downmarket property development of his on a muddy site south of venerable Kentish Town, near a road junction hitherto associated with two pubs, a workhouse and a gibbet.

Camden Town was never a village and only briefly was it a suburb. Within 50 years the cottage gardens full of cabbages and snails and chicken coops that Dickens remembered from his boyhood there were being swept away by the railway lines heading into the new main stations on the Euston Road. Even without the trains, the area had already by then been overtaken by London's relentless expansion. For the next 100 years or so Camden Town became that peculiarly English phenomenon — an area of fog and trans-



Victorian innocence and expanding horizons symbolised by Camden's railways and canals

virtually invisible to the middle classes passing through it on their way to more salubrious suburbs, yet one full of life. Camden has sheltered personalities as various as Engels, Sickert and Dylan Thomas, as well as countless Italians, Greek Cypriots and Irish families founding homes from home. It has trembled from bombs, demolitions and the

threat of a motorway, yet it has also been a hearth of passionate gentrification. Life and Times in NW1. It is twentieth century London in microcosm; and today seething Camden Lock, complete with a new iron structure like an ideal industrial relic, is a touristic name at the other end of the world. Poor Lord Camden. Lucky Lord Camden.

Lucky John Richardson, too, to have such a fertile subject for another in his illustrated Historical Publication series on London districts. The black-and-white of the old photos, prints, plans and trade advertisements that he employs is ideally suited to Camden Town's personality. And lucky Camden Town to have had such a meticulous and

well informed chronicler. He has also found for the dust jacket an Ackerman print of the 1830s which is both little known and appropriate. On a handsome iron bridge over the canal, somewhere to the north of King's Cross, with the shadowy dome of St Paul's in the distance, a pristine train of open trucks heads away into a shining industrial future.

The passion of the "older man" for a young woman is one of the great themes of modern history. The recklessness with which those who possess power and wisdom risk their marriages, reputations and careers for the sake of some smouldering bimbo or blonde dolly bird is among the strangest phenomena of western civilisation.

In this case the hapless male is Lieutenant-General Galton (Galt) Sandford, chief of staff to General "Big Drum" Wraith, US commander in the south Pacific in the second world war. His weakness down under is Private Dimity (Dim) Lewis, a clerk in the Allied Officers' Club in Melbourne and daughter of an up-country sheep grazer.

The tempted and his temptress are both married. If only just. Galt's wife Sandy, accustomed to long periods of separation, has carved out her own lifestyle in Virginia. Dim's husband Allan, an Australian special forces hero, is inexplicably cursed by sexual impotence.

Bewitched on his first encounter with young Dim (whose age approximates to that of his own daughters) the coldly efficient Galt stumbles from the casting couch down a long trail of indiscretions. He engineers her promotion to lieutenant, makes her entertainments officer on the staff and, as such, an indispensable item on his inventory. She even travels to the battlefield in New Guinea — to the delight of his enemies and distress of his friends. Now read on...

This perhaps is the moment to explain that William Coyle is an alias of the renowned Thomas Keneally, winner of

Drums for a false beard

Henry Stanhope

CHIEF OF STAFF
by William Coyle
Chatto & Windus, £14.99

the Booker Prize with *Schindler's Ark* in 1982 — and short-listed on at least one other occasion. He reveals his true identity in the blurb, which is rather like wearing a false beard on a bank raid, then whipping it off before the chief cashier. But his literary coyness is understandable.

Frost like "a frown of anger crossed her father's face" suggests that *Chief of Staff* like an earlier wartime novel by William Coyle, is aimed less at the Booker literati than at Joe Soap wandering round the bookstalls at Heathrow. This is the traditional "novel of epic scope" — as the publishers put it.

Still, on the basis that one good cliché deserves another, Mr Coyle (ne Keneally) spins a well short of being dramatised documentary, its fiction is reasonably well founded upon fact and the best parts are those in which the facts almost

take over — like those which reflect a continent at war and the politics of military preparation.

General Wraith, who has right-wing political aspirations to the White House, is based on General Douglas MacArthur. He tells reporters on Adelaide station after being evacuated from the Philippines: "The enemy saw me retreat. But they shall soon see me return" — evoking memories of MacArthur's famous pledge. Sandford plays Brutus to this 20th-century Caesar, for the most part deeply loyal but, in the end, flawed. The subject matter is powerful enough and the canvas sufficiently broad to merit more serious treatment than it gets. The way in which Galt Sandford, so reliable, so cool-headed, imperious Wraith's and his own soaring ambitions for the sake of his innocent young Sheila, has potential which has not been fully exploited.

Despite the intrigue in Washington and the Pacific (some of which makes fighting the Japanese seem like child's play), the self-questioning by Dim (more aimed against a young rival to the love-sick general... Coyle's explorations of feeling are superficial and his definitions of character at best blurred. Few of the dramatic personae hold one's attention and the love story rarely rises above the level of an illicit romance.

Chief of Staff is one of Keneally/Coyle's "commercial" works and as such will no doubt pay his air fares for a while. But I feel that it could have been much more than that and I found myself wishing, while reading it, that it was.

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Strong meat, deliciously funny



In hiding, in arubish-bin, but in vain: an anonymous early victim of the butchery attempts to avoid death in the "wonderfully bizarre" new film comedy, *Delicatessen*

Geoff Brown on the French black comedy *Delicatessen*, plus V.I. Warshawski and Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey

Start the year with something tasty. Rush to *Delicatessen* (15, Cannon Toleum, Court Road, Metro, Screen on the Hill): a wonderfully bizarre, black-humoured French concoction that titillates the palate no end. Its makers, Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro (interviewed by Stephanie Billen, right), pursue the sleek, unreal style common to many new recruits from the fleshpots of advertising and video. But where Luc Besson, Jan-Jacques Beineix and others were their visual fancies on wispily plucked, the *Delicatessen* boys construct a tight narrative edifice of seepings, gags, circus tricks, theme and variations. One viewing of *Delicatessen* or *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* and the film is exhausted; after several screenings of this cannibalistic comedy, nuances still await the connoisseur.

Action unfolds within a butcher's shop surrounded by lodgings, stranded in misty, blizzarded landscape, hovering in time between the second world war and some devastated future where meat is scarce and grain is replaced by coagulated blood. The butcher views as fair game any lodger found on the stairs after dark. Louison, an ex-circus performer and a wizard on the musical saw, is his main target, even though Louison wins the heart of Julie, a short-sighted, cello-playing daughter. At the end of the revels, Tripodites — vegetarian revolutionaries camped in the sewers — raid the premises, and the water that drips throughout gathers force to become a flood, demolishing most of the

You could play "Spot the Influence" until next Christmas. Terry Gilliam rubs shoulders with the Carné-Prévert classics of the Thirties and Forties (street scenes and rooftop vistas pay obvious homage to Alexandre Trauner's sets). French comic strips fuel the aggressive black humour and stylisation; while aural gags point to Jacques Tati. Yet Jeunet and Caro's mangle minds fuse the pickings into a movie deliciously fresh and individual.

Each flat in the building prompts its own mad scene: two brothers manufacturing little boxes that moon a "bedroom" room swamped with frogs and snails; Rube Goldberg suicide attempt with bell-push, sewing machine, electric lamp and a would-be victim waiting in the bath. But the joy of the film lies in the details binding characters together. Squeaking bed-springs in the butcher's boudoir trigger off in other rooms a comic symphony of carpet-beatings, tyre pumpings and rhythmic strokes of paintbrush and cello bow. Gags are shaped like Louison's boomerang knife: they keep bouncing back, victoriously, in later scenes.

In the directorial division of labours, Caro took care of the golden-hued visuals, while Jeunet controlled the actors. They assembled a marvellous line-up of gar-

goyes: rubber-faced Dominique Pinon (the most familiar player) as Louison; wide-eyed Marie-Laure Dougnac as the daughter, a pool of innocence in the madhouse; Jean Claude Dreyfus as the horrid butcher; sultry Karin Viard as his mistress. None of these become three-dimensional characters — the busy script hardly leaves room — but they make delightful puppets.

Imperfections ultimately intrude. The Troglodytes' rebellion allows Jeunet and Caro to spin out their film to feature length but ruptures the hermetic spell. The best moments of *Delicatessen* are quiet.

'After several screenings of this cannibalistic comedy, nuances still await the connoisseur'

finely judged; noise overwhelms at the end. But over-exuberance is a small price to pay for such an exciting, inventive first feature. Look out, cinema: Jeunet and Caro are on the march.

V.I. Warshawski (15, Odeon Haymarket) is the big event that never was: a Hollywood film clearly shaped before its release as the first of a series from Sara Paretsky's mystery novels, with Kathleen Turner as the hard-nosed, hard-living Chicago private investigator. Radio 4 listeners have already been

treated to Turner's trademark croak rattling off the hard-boiled cracks in several adventures. But it is hard to imagine any movie audience queuing for more of this low-grade thriller: hardly different from the bread-and-butter product regularly served on the small screen. The problem lies not with Sara Paretsky: her salty feminist heroine seems ready-made for breathing fresh air into a genre susceptible to cliché.

Nor can we fault Kathleen Turner, who deserves a small medal for gusto. She gets hurled from a car and thumped in the face, she escapes in a speed boat, boards a ship by clambering up a rope and floors opponents with martial kicks. She continuously displays what radio audiences must imagine: those legs. But when the script is dim-

witted and the direction mundane, what can a poor girl do? Warshawski's case involves a suspicious dockside explosion, a ship-ping company of sagging fortunes and a 13-year-old daughter who hires V.I. — Vic to her friends — to nail her father's killer.

To suck the life from this plot (first aired in Paretsky's *Indemnity Only*) took the brains of three writers. Any spare creative juice was probably used up spinning puns about "dicks". Supporting characters such as Charles Durning's police lieuten-

ant weave in and out, awaiting the spotlight that other episodes would supposedly throw. Jeff Kanew's direction is perfunctory.

Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure — the daft tale of two woolly-headed, time-travelling Californian teenagers — made passable entertainment in 1989. *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* (PG, Odeon West End) stretches the joke too far. To gauge the film's excess, just count the characters. First come Bill and Ted, played as before by Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter. Then two evil Bill and Ted replicas spread confusion, sent from the future by nasty Joss Ackland to derail history.

For a reel or two, Bill and Ted become ghosts and visit the after-life, where they pick up the Grim Reaper as sidekick and feed ("Hey, how's it hangin', Death?" asks Ted). For the cake's icing, two Martian scientists built on the lines of a Maurice Sendak wild thing construct robots of Bill and Ted.

With four sets of Bill and Ted's wandering, colliding and dishing out shlock ("Woh!" and "Hey!", hands strumming an imaginary guitar), the audience's patience is quickly exhausted. Chintzy special effects prove a further burden. William Sadler's Grim Reaper manages some laughs, dressed in a cowl, with a scythe and Swedish accent. British director Pete Hewitt — hired on the basis of his National Film and Television School graduation piece *The Candy Store* — can only shovel the material onto the screen and hope for the best. It is not forthcoming.

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

Food shop boys enjoying a hit

The two young co-directors of the film *Delicatessen* (reviewed, left), talk to Stephanie Billen

Cinema meets the circus in *Delicatessen*, the bizarre Gallie comedy by directors Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro. A cult hit in France and recipient of the European Film Award for Best Production Design, *Delicatessen* takes a circus clown and places him in the middle of an ugly world of ration-books, decaying tenement rooms and semi-discreet cannibalism.

"At the beginning the character was a music-hall sort of figure," explains Jeunet. "Then Marc had the idea of the clown. Lots of little things we had been thinking about suddenly became justified — like his big shoes and the way he hangs from his braces when he's painting the ceiling. That was normal for him."

The circus theme also added to the story's romance, for the clown, Louison, not only survives the attacks of the man-eating butcher, but finds time to woo his daughter with the magic of showbiz. In one scene he draws an audience by filling the stairwell with beautiful bubbles.

Jeunet says: "Louison had to seduce the girl and rather than make him a sex symbol, it seemed more fun to have him seduce everyone by blowing bubbles. Actually it was a difficult scene to shoot. We had to bring in blocks of ice to keep the atmosphere cool enough that the bubbles didn't burst as soon as they were made."

Sweetly old-fashioned and romantic as the picture is at times, that is not its overall effect. Jeunet and Caro, who previously worked together on short films and advertisements, playfully describe their first feature as "rough and meaty". Critics have compared the spectacle to a very different style of circus, one that features motorbikers and chainsaws: *Archaos*.

Audrey Le Boullé, a member of that circus, can see the similarities. "When I first saw *Delicatessen* I could see *Archaos* in the film's atmosphere, in the characters' faces, their crazy eyes and the fact that we never know what time we are in, whether it is the past or the future... Then there is all the water and smoke, which is also like our shows."

She is not surprised to hear that the directors claim not to have been influenced by the troupe. "I am sure the likenesses are just coincidence. In France that mix of comedy, violence and poetry is the thing of the moment. And in Europe too: I'm thinking of directors like Wim Wenders, who made *Wings of Desire* and whose latest film, *Till the End of the World*, has that kind of tone, or even, perhaps, Peter Greenaway."

In fact *Delicatessen* has confused the French press. Searching for inspirations for the film, critics have come up with sources too specific to ignore, but too many and varied to sit comfortably within any short analysis of the picture. Jeunet and Caro lent a hand themselves in one newspaper, providing a list of influences from Tati to Terry Gilliam, from Robert Doisneau's photography to Tex Avery's cartoons.

In conversation they cite the films of Marcel Carné in particular. "We loved pictures like *Hôtel du Nord* and *Le Jour se lève*. The challenge was to transfer these films, which were used to seeing in black and white into colour," says Caro.

But Caro, who is credited with the zany look of the film (Jeunet directed the actors), prefers not to analyse its visual humour. Instead he says simply: "If you are sure that something makes you laugh, then you can be sure it will make someone else laugh; what you can't tell is how many will laugh."

For the moment, however, that is not a worry. *Delicatessen* has found its audience and Jeunet and Caro are enjoying their new-found success. In between ribbing each other with a running joke about the prospect of fame and a Cadillac, they elaborate on a so-far non-existent sequel.

In *Delicatessen II*, "Louison is beating his wife and they have ten children," says Jeunet. "And she's hugely pregnant," adds Caro, mock seriously. "The first shot is her, with this huge black eye, scrubbing the kitchen floor... It's very important for humanity to be shown this, how hard it is to wash floors, especially without any hot water."



Directorial team: Jean-Pierre Jeunet (left) and Marc Caro

A Lotte worse?

IF HOLLYWOOD were preparing a biographical musical about Kurt Weill's wife, the songbird Lotte Lenya — and Hollywood is — who would you fear most in the principal role? You guessed correctly: Bette Midler. The doughy lady, who sings and dances through three wars in her latest film *For The Boys*, is expected to star in the TriStar production. No word yet on casting of Weill himself, though one wag has suggested John Travolta for the part.

of the sharp-tongued composer. The script is being written by Becky Johnson, hot from her labours on Barbara Streisand's romantic drama, *The Prince of Tides*.

Last chance...

MODERN or Post-Modern, there is no doubt about the involvement of Japanese artists, like Japanese in general, in the most advanced of modern technology. If the main contribution of the Victoria and Albert Museum (071-938 8500) to the Japan Festival, "Visions of Japan", comes over sometimes as more like a pavilion in some occasional World's Fair than a museum exhibition, that is probably just what was intended. And along with the message chairs and slot machines and karaoke booths there is even a little that is recognisable as art, for the earnest seeker. Until Sunday.

ARTS REVIEWS
New Year celebrations.
Rock and Dance
page 16

Somewhere to rest their feet

Tacked on to the latest list of 129 beneficiaries of the football pools companies' Foundation for Sport and the Arts is an allocation of £65,000 to the steering group of the Lyceum Theatre Trust for a feasibility study. That modest handout, which looks rather like an afterthought, could be the answer to the prayer of dancers, dance administrators, conservationists and theatre historians.

Arts Projects Consultants have been commissioned to assess whether the near derelict Lyceum, just off The Strand, could become London's national dance house. With its wide stage and potential seating capacity of more than 2,000, the theatre has been frequently held up as ideal for dance. Preliminary assessments suggest it would cost £25 million to buy the building, and to restore and equip it properly, including the reinstatement of the stage, the orchestra pit and the stalls.

The hope of the steering committee, chaired by Lady Harlech, chairman of English National Ballet, is that the Lyceum would be the London home for ENB, London Contemporary Dance Theatre, London City Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Northern Dance Theatre, and even the Royal Ballet.

There have been other schemes for the Lyceum, such as the one to dismantle the gorgeous Edwardian interior and reassemble it underground with an office block from ground level upwards. The Royal Opera House even had discussions with the

Can London's Lyceum Theatre return to life as a showcase for Britain's top dance companies? Simon Tait reports

leaseholder, Brent Walker, about shifting opera and ballet performances to a refurbished Lyceum during Covent Garden's three-year closure, but they came to nothing.

Now, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, believes he has found the answer to save the Lyceum: the European Arts Festival, the six-month celebration of British artistic achievement being staged to mark Britain's presidency of the European Community. Already the government has committed £6 million to the festival, that runs from July to December. Palumbo plans to see David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, in hope of persuading him to give government money to the Lyceum scheme.

"The Lyceum is the obvious choice," says Palumbo. "It would be a wonderful and significant gesture on the part of the government to resolve a manner which has been intractable for too long. What could be more joyful, more appropriate, than to have it open by the beginning of the Year of Dance in 1993?"

The theatre was not the obvious choice eight years ago when John Drummond, former Radio 3 controller, direc-

tor of the Proms and now director of the European Arts Festival, wrote a report for the Arts Council on the prospects of a dance house for London. That report discussed the Lyceum as an option, but decided that its lack of essential rehearsal rooms told against it.

The Lyceum, scene of some of the great dramatic triumphs of Henry Irving when he was in residence as actor-manager, has barely been used as a theatre since John Gielgud's famous *Hamlet* there in 1939. Apart from the occasional attempt by the old Greater London Council during its ownership, to give it some semblance of an arts venue, it has been a Mecca ballroom. Since 1986, the theatre has been dark. Now the

freeholder, the Theatres Trust, is getting increasingly impatient with Brent Walker, who bought the lease — with a clause requiring restoration to production theatre standard — for just over £8 million in 1988. The financially-troubled company is technically in breach of the lease now. Some of those who made rival bids then, including Stoll Moss and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group, are still said to be keen to buy.

The search for a London

dance house has been going on for 15 years. Plans to build a theatre next to Sadler's Wells, birthplace of the Royal Ballet, have been hamstrung by the slump in the development market which would have paid for it: the £60 million proposal to build the London Dance House in Waterloo is in a similar state of limbo. Although work has started around the ROH on shifting shops and dressing rooms, the major part of the £200 million development is having to wait until after the recession.

Private money will be needed for the Lyceum scheme, but a government commitment of funds has a way of attracting more money from the City. Palumbo's idea is to make the scheme the centre of the European festival.

But is getting the Lyceum open within the six months of the festival a realistic or even desirable option? Iain Mackintosh, a theatre historian and designer who is now working on turning Edinburgh's Empire Theatre into an opera house, got the Lyceum open for the National Theatre's *Mysteries* in 1985. They needed a flat space, and the Lyceum provided it because it had lost its stage and front stalls. "It would take two to three years to get it ready for opening for dance," Mackintosh says.

"Apart from the physical work, there are complex listing building consents and planning procedures. The building is in a terrible state and cannot be got ready overnight, but it is a wonderful building and has to be restored."



"A wonderful building", at present "in a terrible state": the Lyceum Theatre, in Wellington Street, London

The Portrait in British Art
Masterpieces bought with the help of the National Art Collections Fund
8 NOVEMBER 1991
9 FEBRUARY 1992
Admission Free
Sponsored by Enterprise Oil

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
Open daily

NPG
St Martin's Place
London WC2H 0HE
Tel: 071 306 0055

No need to man the barricades

Jonathan Clark says attacks on our constitution are a more potent threat to order than riots or demonstrations

Could revolution happen here? Such things seem scarcely within the bounds of Britishness. Yet little more than a decade ago, the nation's alleged ungovernability was producing genuine forebodings in the minds of experienced observers. Writing in *The Times* in August 1977, Lord Chalfont warned that a "great and ominous change is taking place in the affairs of this country," and sounded the alarm against overturning the "delicate balance between freedom and order in society".

He wrote in the immediate aftermath of the Grenville picket, a National Front march and a violent by-election; his concern was to stress how "political minorities in Britain are becoming more and more arrogant and contemptuous in their readiness to advocate and use violence against anyone who dissents from their views".

That form of threat to the rule of law was seen off by the government of the 1980s, and is unlikely to recur. Yet events since 1989 in Eastern Europe and finally in the Soviet Union itself have emphasised how vulnerable to destabilisation even the most seemingly secure states can be.

Since 1989, revolutions have changed their spots. Historians and political scientists used to explain them chiefly as the result of "pressure from without": regimes were toppled by militant minorities of the excluded or oppressed, organised around one or other programmatic ideology. Jacobins, Nazis

parliamentary elite over the EC and federalism will provide leadership more credible than that of bearded young students in Che Guevara berets.

Second, Eric Hobsbawm suggested that revolutions have been and can be averted by quietist religion, diverting temporal dissatisfaction into otherworldly channels. In the 1990s, we might argue that both communism and liberal constitutionalism acted as secular religions, but with the death of these gods widely reported, the rising tides of nationalism and material ambition find fewer and fewer obstacles in their paths.

Third, he argued that revolutionary pressures can be defused, as in Britain in 1832, by prudent concessions from the parliamentary classes. A parliament in the 1990s which resisted EC federalism, monetary union and regional devolution with enough resolution to defeat them might risk greater destabilisation, whereas piecemeal concession might buy peace through surrender.

Fourth, Hobsbawm suggested that revolutionary situations could be turned into real revolutions by alliances between



Chalfont: fears of civil breakdown in the 1970s

proletariat and bourgeoisie or an intellectual elite. Translated into British terms, that points an accusing finger at organisations like Charter 88: its charge that our constitution is irredeemably corrupt reverts to a strategy historically more potent than this century's class-war theories have ever been.

Charter 88, the Liberal Democrats, the Institute for Public Policy Research and Liberty (successor to the National Council for Civil Liberties) have all, in their constitutional proposals, expressed the same ahistorical understanding of what the constitution is and what it can be made to do.

On the continent, regimes have usually found themselves internally destabilised, like the Soviet Union, when their publicly professed ideologies are declared intellectually bankrupt. Whether liberal constitutionalism, the unifying principle of the United Kingdom in modern times, has been dealt a similar blow by the EC and federalism is a question of more than academic interest.

Just as generals seek to refight previous wars, so revolutionaries yearn for revolution on an old model — and with little success. Destabilisation of Britain, if it were to come, would not resemble the 1970s, with its mob disorder, barricades, politicised strikes and martyrdoms. It would not be a Marxist "crisis of capitalism", nor a populist, East European style resurgence of English nationalism: the shipwreck is unlikely to become a head of state. Destabilisation would take new forms, but would be no less real for that.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Nigel Hawkes asks why trials of a promising breast cancer drug have been delayed

Time to save lives

able to all. The long-term answer, however, must be prevention rather than treatment. There is growing evidence that tamoxifen can prevent the disease among susceptible women.

The proposal now is to try to demonstrate this effect in a large trial. Some 15,000 women would be recruited from high-risk groups: those with a family history of breast cancer. Half would be given the drug, the other half a placebo, and their progress would be monitored over ten years. If the optimism of those promoting the trial proves justified, breast cancer in women who show no symptoms might be halved.

Is it justifiable to treat healthy women with a powerful drug in the hope of demonstrating a protective effect? If the trial proves successful, then millions rather than thousands might be so treated. Before going down that road we must be sure that any side-effects are well understood.

Doctors involved in the trial

have never attempted to dodge this issue, but they are beginning to lose patience with the small-scale pace at which the medical establishment has dealt with it. The cancer charities are satisfied, but the Department of Health and the MRC are still moving cautiously.

After promising a public hearing, the MRC got cold feet and set up a private committee, under Dame Mary Donaldson. The committee held one meeting and satisfied itself that the trial should go ahead, subject to the proviso that it should include only women already aware that they are at greater than average risk of breast cancer. This eliminated the danger that the doctors involved would tour the country pressing reluctant women into the trials. This was, of course, a purely theoretical danger, for there are already all-too-many women fully aware of the risk.

The Department of Health, for its part, ordered the Committee on Safety of Medicines to take

another look at the drug's safety. This request came very late, after tamoxifen had already been widely used in preliminary trials. The evidence on safety is good, the only question mark coming from Sweden, where an increased risk of cancer of the lining of the uterus was found. The effect has not been reproduced in the British trials.

The MRC has now weighed in again with the demand that the health economics of the trial should be examined. To the doctors involved this is an extraordinary request, which would make sense only if tamoxifen were a hugely expensive treatment. It is not: the cost of making it generally available would be no greater than that of childhood inoculation against polio.

For the public, the least satisfactory part of the affair is that it has all taken place behind closed doors. When asked if it will publish Dame Mary Donaldson's report, the MRC equivocates. The promised public debate on the

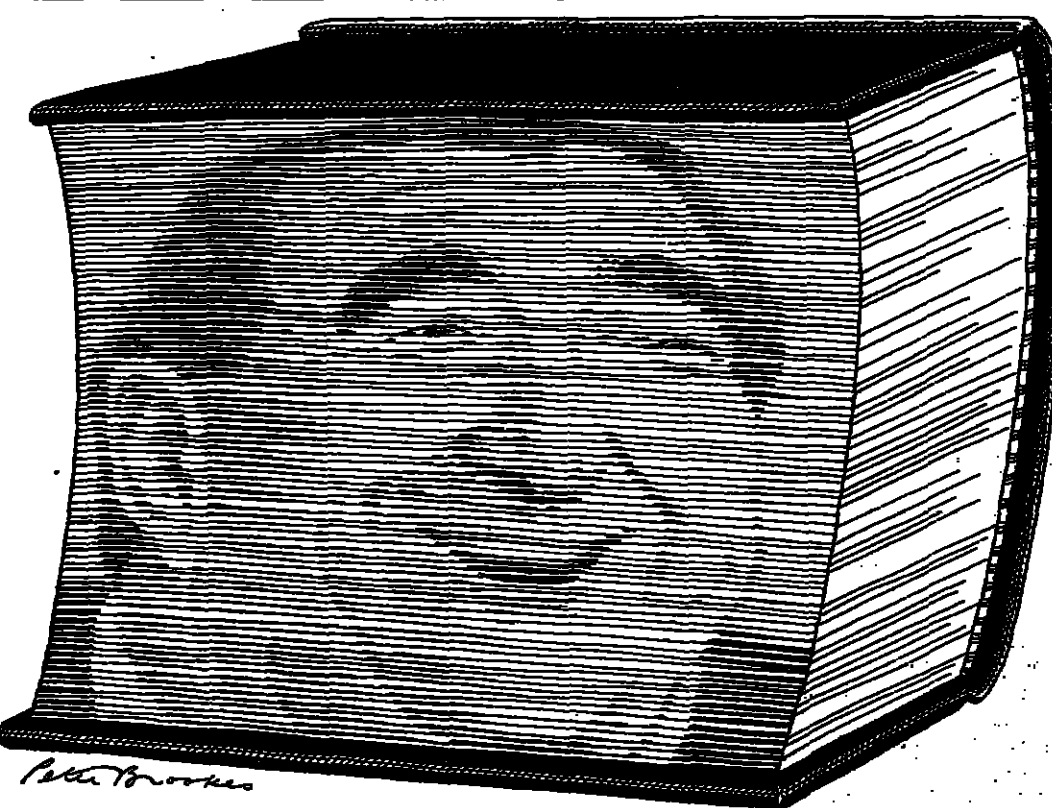
subject has been delayed on the grounds that the MRC wanted first to "tease out" issues, medical-speak for setting the question internally before the public has a chance to get involved.

Meanwhile, the doors concerned at the Royal Marsden and Guy's Hospital are beginning to lose heart. For four years at least they have been preparing openly for the trial, only to be thwarted at the last minute by the medical bureaucrats. While Britain has equivocated, America has gone ahead, with approval for a trial there from the usual suspects: Food and Drug Administration.

There may be good reasons for delay, but if so neither the MRC nor the Department of Health has demonstrated them. Given that more women die of breast cancer in Britain than in any other country, and that, unlike other cancers, the survival rate has hardly improved over the past 50 years, there is no excuse for temporising. Either the trial should be approved, or proper reasons should be given or refusing it. At present, the impression is one of muddle and complicity, while more than 300 women a week continue to die.

A life stranger than fiction

Bernard Levin fears that no novelist could do justice to the scale of Robert Maxwell's swindling and treachery



inability to stretch our imaginations far enough to comprehend it.

At which point, of course, the professional imaginers are called in. Within two years, perhaps sooner, there will be no fewer than six novels, all very bad, about a crooked television tycoon. The idea will be to astonish the reader by the brilliant and original notion of making the villain not a newspaper proprietor but a rogue in a similar industry. Further masterstrokes of the same kind of imagination will have the central character very thin, born in Japan and notoriously anti-Semitic. But the books will still be no good.

Why? It is not immediately easy to say. The facile answer is that because he was so crooked, and in so many ways, it is impossible to paint such a figure brightly enough to make him convincing.

A novelist would be stuck for criminal behaviour so grotesque as to out-top reality; reality has already reached the highest peak, and it would be necessary to add cannibalism to his malfeasances, or to change tack and have him turn out to be a woman, as butch as butch could be. But we must eschew such giddy trash, for we are trying to write a serious novel (oh, didn't I mention that?), and such monkeyshines would not fit our elevated art.

One of the very few sensible things I have ever done in my life was not to try to be a novelist. (Well, I did try, starting with short stories, but I have described elsewhere my ignominious failure to get anything published.) My fundamental handicap would always be my lack of the fiction writer's imagination: if I had set out to

construct a Maxwell look-alike, the very best I could have managed would have been to follow every step of the real figure, so that my readers would on one page find an astounding tale of selling the same shares twice over, and on another the shocking revelation of the theft by our curfew of the firm's pension fund, and I rather think that by about page 27 they would be demanding their money back.

But, you see, the professionals are not much better off. They too face the difficulty of showing Maxwell plain while making the character incredible or too threadbare: where do they go from there? They could have a stab at it, I suppose, in the manner of Dickens, who was at his best when delineating grotesques, but no novelist set such a task could do it without cynicism adulterating his ink, something

that Dickens would find abhorrent, and that would surely rule out *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Oliver Twist*, *Big Tom*, *Pickpocket*, *Fanny Hill*, *Our Mutual Friend*, *David Copperfield* or *Great Expectations*.

Some possibilities have to be ruled out at once, for instance a romantic novel, Maxwell the dashing hero with a lady for the ladies, his deprecation turning out to be of the Robin Hood kind — taking from the wicked banks and giving to the *Mirror* pension fund — would lack verisimilitude.

Even more difficult would be the task of those trying to emulate Dostoevsky by giving Maxwell a soul with which to wrestle even as he forges another cheque; but although Dostoevsky could make a wonderfully vivid cameo out of Joe Haines, no lesser genius could do it, or even, perhaps, want to.

I novels won't do, what about the stage? Have a recollection of seeing a play, many years ago, based on the life of Ivar Kreuger (possibly the biggest businessman now in the world), and I think I found it convincing. That would not be surprising: the drama can be far less subtle than the novel and get away with it. Well, Tom Stoppard was complaining the other day that he couldn't think of an idea for a play, and I made a note to go round and kick him vigorously in the shins until he screamed for mercy and got down to work.

That said, there is always the O. Henry form of fiction, with the twist in the tail. The one was real; I heard it myself. One hour after Maxwell's body had been found, Brenda Dean, editor of the *printworkers' union* — *ehem fugaces* — was interviewed on radio. She was asked if she thought he had deliberately jumped into the sea. She demurred and the interviewer said "But he was under great stress and strain — might not his troubles have led him to drown himself?" No, no," she said, "he loved to stress and strain, it was his client — why, he could walk on water."

P.S. Hal Stoppard tells me he is at work on a play, *Not*, presumably about Maxwell.



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

Continuing my exclusive review of the major events of next year:

May 27. Kenneth Baker MP falls head-first into a sewer. "This was planned long ago," he maintains as he emerges, "and the results are entirely in line with expectations. We are absolutely delighted with the success of this operation, and I congratulate all concerned."

June 14. Film director Michael Winner's first excursion into children's entertainment with a new version of *Thomas the Tank Engine* gets a rough ride from the critics. They complain that nowhere in the original did the Reverend Awdry suggest that Thomas was permanently armed with a Colt 45, an anti-tank bazooka and a selection of infrared homing devices, and that the inclusion of Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi forces in *Thomas's Revenge: The Final Conflict* is out of keeping with the spirit of the original. Winner attacks his critics for living in the past, and demands a more considered reaction to his next movie, a reworking of a Disney children's classic, *101 Rotmellers* is to open in July.

July 5. Having run the full gamut of problems from baby-battering to compulsive sandwich-eating during its first five years, the *Kilroy* programme concentrates its attention on the problem of being without a problem. "Now, Jan, I believe you haven't had a problem for over six months," whispers Kilroy sympathetically to one of his

guests. "That must have been very, very hard to cope with. Were there moments when you felt you just couldn't carry on? Tell us about it, love. Deep breath, there now."

August 18. As a high street alternative to the Body Shop, the Nobody Shop opens in an out of the way spot, selling lotions to help keep you unnoticed, all of them guaranteed tested on animals. To keep the morale of staff low, the management encourages half an hour's slouching before work and offers associated day-courses in brooding and random snapping.

August 31. The fifth volume of Tony Benn's *Diaries* is published, its 556 pages covering the morning of June 17, 1985. It opens: "Today, I wrote my diary..."

September 4. An Eighties nostalgia boom is heralded by a repeat of a Channel 4 discussion of the greenhouse effect, a spate of shoulder-patched parties and more than a hundred people massing in Hyde Park wearing novelty masks of TV-am presenter Mike Morris. In a related incident, police condemn an attempt by one man to live on a single plate of nouvelle cuisine for two hours, a prank which inevitably ends in tragedy.

October 17. In a brief press release, Harold Brodsky, the American writer who took 27 years to complete his first novel, *The Runaway Soul*, announces that he has embarked on a second novel, *The Stay-at-Home*

Heel, scheduled for publication early in 2017. Brodsky began writing this press release in March, 1985. Insiders say it was delayed for six months while he inserted an extra comma, and a further six months while it was deleted.

November 3. Prime minister Neil Kinnock denies a Tory charge that his first six months in Number 10 have been characterised by verbosity. "I deny and wholly refute, reject and repudiate that claim, charge or accusation, and moreover I utterly disagree with it," he says, "as well as opposing and condemning it in the strongest, most thorough and toughest manner or way open or accessible to myself and my colleagues and associates."

December 24. In a surprise announcement from Finland, Santa Claus declares he will not be delivering presents this year. City observers blame this on the January takeover of his reindeer delivery service by British Telecom, heralded by the company at the time as "a safeguard for the international reputation of Santa Claus". British Telecom rejects allegations that it has curtailed the activities of Mr Claus for purely financial reasons. "The public prefers a more modern, 21st-century approach," claims a spokesman. "In future, Mr Claus will be faxing all his Christmas messages during the leaner summer period. May I add that the public response to this initiative has been very positive?"

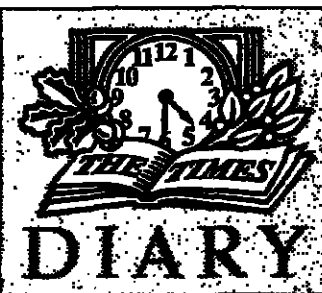
House of troubles

THE NEW Year will bring no respite to the beleaguered Royal Opera House. After John Dew's production of *Les Huguenots* last year gave the House its biggest critical disaster in years, Covent Garden is to reward him with two new plum productions.

No announcement has been made, but the *Diary* has learnt that Dew has been approached to stage a new production of *The Magic Flute* and the little-known *La Juive* by Jacques Halevy. Dew's production of *Les Huguenots* provoked boos, catcalls and cries of "rubbish" from the audience in November. Despite scathing criticism, Paul Findlay, Covent Garden's director of opera, who is due to leave the job next year and who recommended Dew's production, insisted that he "stood by" his choice, but few believed that Dew would work at the house again.

There is also the prospect of holes appearing in next season's programme planning. One of the centrepieces was hoped to be *Porgy and Bess*, an important production for Covent Garden as a counter to accusations of Elitism. But the additional costs, including the Gershwin estate's stipulation of a black cast, may jeopardise the production.

On top of that, Luciano Pavarotti has been signed up to sing five performances of *Tosca*, but since he blighted the house with two cancellations last year, Jeremy Isaacs and his staff must be reduced to touching wood. And if he does appear, will the crash diet he has just undertaken have an adverse effect upon the sublime voice? Many in the world of opera say that after Maria Callas lost weight she never sounded so powerful again.



● The town George Orwell described as "one of the most god-forsaken places I have ever struck" has belatedly decided to forgive its sternest critic. Hayes in Middlesex is planning a festival to celebrate Orwell's 60th birthday. The author was, of course, born in 1903 as Eric Blair, but he first adopted his nom-de-plume when teaching in the town in 1932. Fred Bennett, one of the organisers, says: "Yes, he was rather rude about Hayes, but all is forgiven. He never knew that what he said would be published. I'm sure he would have watered it down a bit otherwise. After all, this is effectively the birthplace of George Orwell."

Sale storming

SHOPPERS who stormed Harrods for the opening of its sale yesterday were greeted by a large canvas depicting an even more famous storming: the Bolshevik attack on the Tsar's palace in St Petersburg in 1917.

With the Soviet Union now part of history, it has apparently become safe to commemorate the bloody and violent moment of communist triumph within the portals of high capitalism: pride of place in the store's Georgian restaurant has been given to a huge painting. *The Storming of the*

Winter Palace by the Russian artist Anatoli Kazantsev.

So large is the canvas that it had to be removed from its frame and rolled up in order to get it through the door. But Harrods will not make a penny from the £40,000 asking price, which has not been reduced for the sale. Proceeds will go to the Royal Marsden Cancer Appeal.

People like US

ONLY the ticker-tape was missing as American pizzazz and swagger hit the new year celebrations on the streets of London yesterday. To the astonishment of bargain-hunters in the new year sales, cheerleaders from all over America



danced and sang their way along Piccadilly and Oxford Street to Elvis Presley hits. It was all part of the Lord Mayor of Westminster's new year parade, and it certainly made the American tourists feel at home. Sheri Clasko, from Deep River, Connecticut, said: "It could have been the streets of New York with all the razzmatazz. It's great to see London adopting our style." Behind the cheerleaders came the bands, which then headed down to the Albert Hall for what was said to be the biggest perfor-

mance in its history at least in terms of number of performers on stage, some 1,500, the band, the Klov from Czechoslovakia, spent 48 hours driving across Europe to get there.

Is anybody listening?

SCOTTISH TELEVISION has decided to increase its Gaelic output. With the injection of an extra £9.5 million in government cash, the company plans to increase its 36 hours of Gaelic transmissions last year to 300 hours by 1993. There is just one problem: it cannot find any actors who speak the language. As a result courses in Gaelic are now being offered by Scottish Television's "experienced professional actors, who are keen to learn Gaelic."

But if the station cannot find Gaelic-speaking actors, is it finding Gaelic-listening audiences? The Scottish Office, which has put up the cash, is adamant that people are watching. "There is great enthusiasm for it. Lots of people like it," insists a spokesman. Others remain unconvinced. BBC Radio Scotland reports that when its Gaelic broadcasts go out, listening figures slump.

● As Madrid enjoyed its first day of its year as European City of Culture, the Irish launched an enquiry into why Dublin's year, which ended at midnight on Tuesday, was such a flop. The Irish prime minister, Charles Haughey, says it "won the city international recognition". Unfortunately it was almost entirely unrecognised in the city itself. A report by the consultants Irish Economic Advisers says that more than 90 per cent of Dubliners were unaware of their city's role as cultural capital. Fewer than 5 per cent could identify a single event associated with it.



NATIONS UNITED

Boutros Boutros Ghali takes office as Secretary General of the United Nations at a time when the organisation's authority, effectiveness and international reputation stand at their highest. His predecessor, the dogged, quiet-spoken Javier Perez de Cuellar, has bequeathed to him an institution that only now is beginning to live up to the dreams of its progenitors. Yesterday's news that Cyrus Vance has at last secured the agreement of both Serbs and Croats to the UN peace plan for Yugoslavia is a welcome beginning to Dr Boutros Ghali's term of office, just as the peace accord his predecessor negotiated for El Salvador on Tuesday is a fitting tribute to a man who served the world community more effectively than any of the big powers imagined when they confirmed him into office a decade ago.

The imminent dispatch of 10,000 peace-keeping troops to Yugoslavia underlines the fact that even in the most intractable conflicts, the UN now wields considerable clout. The world body so long derided as cumbersome and hamstringed by bureaucracy appears to be on the verge of success just as the European Community, attempting a task that always looked beyond its competence, has virtually given up trying to negotiate yet another ceasefire between the warring Serbs and Croats.

But it is not only in Yugoslavia that the UN is being asked to broker an end to hostilities, separate the combatants and feed, clothe and shelter the victims of war and famine. Since the conference in Geneva that led to the pull-out of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the UN has been at the heart of peace-making and peace-keeping around the world. In Cambodia it has already embarked on its most ambitious mission since the Congo. In Cyprus Dr Boutros Ghali may make the breakthrough that long frustrated his predecessor. In Somalia the UN is being asked to end a bloodbath, and in western Sahara it is devising a referendum to replace a guerrilla struggle.

There are of course still areas where suspicions are so intense, such as Sri Lanka, East

Timor and Northern Ireland, that the UN has been denied any peace-making role. Significantly, however, calls have grown for the world body to intervene in all of them. The Gulf war was the clearest example of the UN's new vitality. The Security Council's determination to use the rusty instruments devised by its founders to repel aggression and the deference paid to it by the United States and the Western allies in the escalation of the political confrontation have been taken as evidence of the international community's new faith in the UN as the guardian of world peace. The reason, however, has little to do with Iraq. It has everything to do with President Gorbachev and the end of the Cold War.

It is almost three years since the former Soviet leader declared his country's willingness to pay all its UN debts, cooperate more closely with New York and use UN machinery more fully. He was as good as his word. Moscow quickly undercut the posturings of third world countries which believed that ditched accusations of western imperialism would win them spurious progressive credentials, communist aid and international solidarity. The built-in anti-American majority was thus rapidly cut back. This in turn revived lagging American faith in a body it had begun to despise. The stage was set for a new authority in New York.

It is now up to Dr Boutros Ghali to use this authority in a world still racked by warfare, famine and the threat of instability and political extremism. He was not the first choice of most members, and will have to work energetically to overcome lingering suspicions that he is too old, too bland and too lacking in international stature for the job. But he will only be as good as the support he is given. John Major, despite his well-publicised impatience at UN dithering over the Kurds, has shown that Britain, at least, is committed to a continuing increase in UN authority. Using the advantage of its permanent seat and a formidable shrewd and energetic representative in New York, Britain could give Dr Ghali the decisive support he will need to make his mark. He, and the UN, deserve no less.

WRITS GALORE

The late Robert Maxwell was a leading patron of the legal profession. His writs were not so much served as sprayed. Those he sued ranged from Private Eye to the Department of Trade and Industry. Yet he rarely pursued a case through to a jury verdict, relying upon the "threat" of the writ to close to the truth for his comfort. His success in this tactic revealed serious defects in the British law of libel and the way it operates.

What most aroused his litigious anger was any reference to the report of the Department of Trade and Industry in 1971 which had declared him "not... a person who can be relied upon to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly quoted company." This presidential judgment was made by Sir Ronald Leach, a distinguished accountant, and Sir Owen Sable, a no less distinguished commercial lawyer who became a High Court judge. Thanks to Maxwell's writs, their words - which had privileged protection against action for libel - were far less widely known than they should have been. Though repetition of their conclusion was also privileged unless shown to be done with deliberate malice, Maxwell was often quick to accuse his opponents of this.

Once a writ for defamation and statement of claim has been served - which takes little effort or cost - the burden of proof immediately switches to the defendant to construct as strong a defence as possible - which takes a great deal of both. These procedural rules were not intended to offer a litigant a range of delaying or bullying tactics, but Maxwell became an expert at manipulating them that way.

If he was master of the abuse of legal process, most of the reforms needed to defeat such devices should be reforms of procedure too. A committee under Lord Justice Neill, which reviewed the law of defamation at the request of the Lord Chancellor, reported earlier this year with sensible, though perhaps overcautious, proposals for reform. To the Neill proposals should be added

innovations in defamation law from other countries with a common law tradition, such as Ireland and Australia.

In the aftermath of Maxwell's disgrace, America's libel laws have been held out as superior to Britain's, on the grounds that they would have made publication of "damaging" statements a sharp practice, far easier. So they would. But American libel laws go too far the other way: the requirement on the plaintiff to prove actual malice on the part of the defendant is too onerous.

Less drastically, the Irish Law Reform Commission has recently proposed that writs not proceed with after a period of six or 12 months should automatically be struck out. That would bring a better balance to the opening skirmishes in a libel action, and make it harder to use a writ to gag a legitimate journalistic investigation.

An even better example to follow would be that from Australia, where qualified privilege is being introduced in cases where defamatory allegations are made in good faith, in the public interest, and after "reasonable" enquiries. When they inadvertently go wrong, newspapers will be expected to correct the record promptly. Such a new defence against libel would reduce the measure of uncertainty which faces publishers and editors now, encouraging both excessive caution by journalists and the tactics of intimidation by those with something to hide.

At present, given the capriciousness of modern libel law and the vagueness of the law, no lawyer would advise a client that victory was certain, however good the defence. A lost case and large damages could mean ruin for a medium-sized media business. Such unpredictability forced investigative journalists to take Maxwell's threats seriously. But a well balanced law of libel should not only save the innocent from calumny: it must also protect anybody whose job is to expose the guilty. Hatred, ridicule and contempt is their due and the law should not shield them from it.

WOMEN IN THE FAST LANE

Beware extrapolation. A few cold winters do not denote an imminent ice age. Yet scientists are too often tempted to assume that if a line on a graph points in one direction, it will continue to do so for ever. Two scientists from the University of California now claim that men are losing their ascendancy over women on the athletics track and will be overtaken by the middle of the next century. They draw this conclusion from looking at the speeds men and women have reached since the 1920s. Because women's speeds have increased twice as fast as men's, they argue that by 1998, women should be beating men at the marathon and later at shorter distances too.

There are any number of reasons why women should have improved faster than men, from less cumbersome clothing through later child-bearing to the greater social acceptability of their competing in sport. Seventy years ago, few women would have dared venture on to the athletics track, while sport for men has always been a noble pursuit. As more women have taken part in sport, so has their training been taken more seriously. They were bound to narrow the gap with their brethren.

But can women ever pip men to the post? Only in a very few events. Women already compete equally with men on horseback, where skill is more important than brute strength. But on the track, women's bodies

only prove the equal of men's at distances far longer than the marathon, where their famous capacity for endurance comes into play. Women simply have more stamina. Female babies are more likely to survive than boys; more women came out of concentration camps alive than men. As Dr Craig Sharp of the British Olympic Medical Institute says, "If Scott of the Antarctic had been a woman, she might have made it."

Some women will always be able to outrun some men, just as Billie Jean King could beat Bobby Riggs, a triple Wimbledon winner who unwisely boasted that no woman could thrash him on the court. But the fastest women will never match the fastest men simply because speed at running comes down eventually to muscular strength, and men's bodies, at their best, are stronger than women's.

This is good news for women, not bad, for it allows them to race on a level athletics field. If they were expected to compete against men, they would be deemed a success only when they beat men. Far better for them to attempt to become the fastest females to run a mile than to try to be the fastest human beings at that distance and inevitably fail. Women can be proud of their athletic achievements without feeling overshadowed by men. The honest, after all, would be outblown by a sparrow, but she is still queen of the jungle.

Dilemma over devaluation of sterling

From Sir Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham (Conservative)

Sir, You believe that Britain should devalue sterling against the Deutschmark and other European currencies (leading article, December 30). You believe we should do so because you think that the Bundesbank raised interest rates as part of a power struggle between the Bundesbank and the German government which is nothing to do with us. You also think Britain first joined the exchange-rate mechanism at the wrong rate.

As to the second reason, sterling did not appear uncompetitive with the DM before we joined the ERM, and it does not appear out of line now. But, whatever the political motive may have been, there is no question but that the German financial deficit is already large and is growing fast.

Of course, it would have been better and much more convenient if the German government were to raise taxes to reduce the deficit. But if taxes are not raised, then it seems perverse to blame the Bundesbank for doing what it is there to do.

Thanks to careful management, we have a rather small general government deficit at present, and in prospect. That being so, there is no internal reason to raise interest rates. In time, perhaps after the election has removed the threat of a Labour government, financial markets may well come to recognise that our smaller deficit makes sterling relatively rather attractive compared with the DM, so that sterling should strengthen within the ERM, even to the extent that we may be able to reduce interest rates still further.

But that is not the position at the moment. What would happen if we were to devalue? If by a small amount, then how long would that last in view of all the assurances that have been given? If by a large amount, then what is there to prevent business and industry returning to their bad old ways, paying whatever salaries are demanded, in the knowledge that the government will accommodate them by devaluing the currency again?

Devaluation is no easy solution, as we have come to know, after many years. As First Lord of the Treasury, Mrs Thatcher took us into the ERM, perhaps rather late, but certainly to show that we were serious about curbing inflation, rather than through enthusiasm for any European ideal.

That decision still holds good. It is not necessary to mount a conspiracy theory about Germany to induce us to abandon the best guarantee of non-inflationary growth, which remains our membership of the ERM at the present rate of exchange. It may be hard, but in the long run it is right.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HORDERN,
House of Commons,
December 30.

From Mr W. E. Abbotts

Sir, Cabinet refuses to be panicked, says your headline today (later editions), before quoting Mr Major: "We are now seeing the first signs of recovery, and all forecasts expect to see our economy growing again in the coming year" (as in 1991). This is the stuff of Dad's Army, Corporal Jones speaking.

Scots scotched

From Mrs Olive Russell

Sir, I was delighted to read your report ("Auld tongue gets new prestige", December 18) that the professor of English at Edinburgh University intends to set up a Scottish language course next year. Can the shades of William Dunbar, Gavin Douglas, David Lindsay et al be hovering over the Scottish Education Department, after 120 years of apathy?

The Education Act of 1872 practically obliterated the Scottish language. Efforts made by the Vernacular Circle of the Burns Club of London in the 1920s, petitioning the Scottish Office to institute a chair of Scottish literature and language in one of the older Scottish universities, were ignored.

Now, 70 years later, Glasgow has produced eight graduates (of whom I am one), with more in the pipeline, and Edinburgh is evidently going to follow suit. The proposals would have delighted the original council of the Vernacular Circle. The riches pawned in 1707 are being redeemed at last!

Yours sincerely,
OLIVE RUSSELL,
4 The Gardens,
West Harrow, Middlesex.

From Mr T. V. Edwards

Sir, If Scots is a "living language, with a rich and complex literature", as your leading article affirms (December 19), what description would best fit the more vibrant Welsh language? Ironically, although spoken by hundreds of thousands in Wales (and spoken in what is now Scotland some 1,500 years ago), it still has to fight for its continued existence.

What it needs, obviously, is the imprimatur of *The Times*: in the form of an editorial, please?

Yours faithfully,
19A Heol y Coed,
Rhiwbina, Cardiff 4,
December 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Need for inter-faith understanding

From the Provost of Birmingham

Sir, I am so afraid that rising tensions, exclusions and declarations in the inter-faith debate will stultify all dialogue and progress in understanding between religious communities here in the inner cities.

I am reminded of the work of R. C. Zaehner, who divided the world's living faiths into two main families: the prophetic and the mystical. The prophetic faiths are those which claim that God has intervened directly into human affairs, and for whom revelation is a primary category of thinking: they are Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The mystical faiths are those which start from humanity searching for the ultimate and the absolute; among the most important would be Hinduism and Buddhism. Needless to say, the mystical faiths have a far less blood-stained history than the prophetic.

The world is urgently in need of more theological study of world religions. In Britain, I feel, the subject is still not quite respectable as mainstream; the theologians in the United States and Germany see the needs more clearly.

Christians have a duty to enter the theological dialogue in the spirit of Vatican II, a sort of "committed openness". There is certainly nothing to fear: to share dialogue with people from another faith who have transparent goodness and kindness and joy with deep spirituality can only be strengthening and encouraging.

We do need a very special attitude for Christian/Muslim understanding. We have to overcome more than 1,000 years of polemic, distortion and prejudice. We forget the debt to Islamic scholars of pre-Renaissance and we only remember the bloodshed of the Crusades. We must not relive the past.

Vatican II urged Christians and Muslims "to forget the past and to strive sincerely for mutual understanding. On behalf of all mankind let them make common cause of safeguarding and fostering social justice, moral values, peace and freedom".

I am sorry that the writers of the open letter protesting against inter-faith worship (report, December 9; letters, December 16, 18) could not take up this challenge. The letter was

unnecessary, slightly hysterical and expensive. If the signatories cannot enter the theological debate, perhaps they could address themselves to the lost sheep of the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,

PETER BERRY,
Birmingham Cathedral,
Colmore Row, Birmingham 3,
December 30.

From Archdeacon Derek Hayward

Sir, Clifford Longley (December 21) is mistaken if he supposes that the Christian claim to uniqueness is based on Christ's teachings, which can be largely paralleled in other world religions. On the contrary, it is based on the person of Christ himself, who is unique because he alone has provided a way of understanding suffering which answers to the human condition.

What the Church uniquely has to offer is incorporation into the redemptive death and the risen life of Christ, and this is normally to be looked for in worship with others who seek it too. For centuries the Roman Church claimed that this was only possible through her own worship; recently she has somewhat relaxed this claim, but such relaxation cannot be extended to worship in other faiths, for the simple reason that this is not its object.

This is not to say that other faiths do not have insights which are latent or lacking in Christianity, and we may have much to learn from them; but the Cross of Christ and its power of redemptive suffering are unique, and we compromise them at our peril.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK HAYWARD,
The Vicarage, 61 Church Street,
Isleworth, Middlesex,
December 22.

From Mr E. H. Campion

Sir, Mr Longley has some urgent homework to do. Ecumenicalism has not yet reached the point where a Christian may, without risk of rebuke, wish a Jew a Happy New Year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. CAMPION,
8 Lawn Crescent, Richmond, Surrey,
December 21.

In David's city

From Mr and Mrs Mike Moorhouse

Sir, Mr J. D. Ward (letter, December 24) calls for a revision of "Once in royal David's city". As city-centre dwellers who have suffered from Christmas from over-turned rubbish bins, trails of smashed bottles and damaged walls caused by 14-28-year-olds brought up in these self-expressive times, we think that this country would be a much happier place if not only children but adults, too, accepted Christ's standards of being "mild, obedient and good".

Christ's obedience was obedience to the dictates of right and wrong, and learning to tolerate and give way to the rights of other people. It does not mean being soft: he turned the money-changers out of the temple in obedience to his Father.

Yours faithfully,

MIKE MOORHOUSE,
41 Burghley Road,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr Derek Palmer

Sir, All things considered, I would rather have children who are "mild, obedient and good" than "the nervous, twisting, wistful, pathetic, centreless children we are cursed with: or the fat and self-satisfied, sheep-in-the-pasture children who are becoming more common: or the impudent, I'm-as-good-as-anybody smirking children who are far too numerous".

This was written in the third decade of the century by D. H. Lawrence in a long essay, "Education of the people", which should be read at least once a year by all those seriously interested in education and the bringing up of children.

Yours faithfully,

DEREK PALMER,
Millside, Haslem's Lane,
Darley Abbey, Derby.

From Miss D. Meyerhof

Sir, If there has to be change, what about "selfless, caring, kind as He"?

Yours etc.

D. MEYERHOF,
27 Kathleen Godfree Court,
80 Queens Road, SW19.

Not so silent

From Mr Andrew Sewell

Sir, Peter Barnard ("Nights are silent, now we lack this Hardy perennial", Christmas Eve) would find no "silent night" in this village.

The combined churches choir toured the village on several nights for Christmas Aid. The village band, descended from the church musicians evicted when an organ was installed well over 150 years ago, called here and elsewhere on Christmas Eve with our favourite carol; it then serenaded the village, starting at 4am this morning with "Christians awake" and continuing until the church bells rang out at 7am.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW SEWELL,
Bay House,
Albourne, Wiltshire,
December 25.

Laws of disorder

From Mrs Martin Platt

Sir, Platt's first law of disorder (letters, December 24, 28) states that the telephone rings the moment one has entered the lavatory.

Yours truly,

BELINDA PLATT,
Ty Newydd, Nantmor,
Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

National TV archive

From the Director of the British Film Institute

Sir, Alvin Rakoff's letter (December 26) was a timely reminder of how much has been lost of our early BBC television heritage. Unfortunately, we also have to accept that most of the early ITV arts and drama has been lost, in addition to priceless current affairs and news coverage.

However, things are getting better. The BBC has a royal charter responsibility to maintain an archive of its programmes, and does so through its film and video programme library.

The British Film Institute has been archiving key examples of our television since the early 1950s, and in more recent times has been funded by the ITV companies, and by Channel 4, to record approximately 25 per cent of their output. Although this sounds a low figure, in practice it means that most original British production is being archived, and kept in appropriate conditions.

With the passing of the 1990 Broadcasting Act, these voluntary arrangements - ironically, with the exception of Channel 4 - are to be made statutory from January 1, 1993 (and will extend to Channel 5, though not to BSkyB). Also during 1990 we signed an agreement to record the complete output of BBC1 and BBC2, for access purposes.

We therefore have the basis for a National Television Archive, which we are anxious to maintain and extend, as well as to provide access to it - for example through the regional film archives, and the development of videotheques and of the successful programme of archive television screenings at the Museum of the Moving Image.

I am delighted to hear that some hitherto "lost" television programmes may still be in existence, and I appeal to Mr Rakoff and his colleagues to contact us and to deposit the material they hold, which will find a safe home with us.

Yours faithfully,
WILF STEVENSON, Director,
British Film Institute,
21 Stephen Street, W1,
December 27.

Son of a gun?

From Mrs Sally Holloway

Sir, Your customary, fascinating report (January 1) on popular first names must, of necessity, fail to include some of the more esoteric "monikers" borne by today's children. Confronted by two diminutive Cockney carol singers last week, I handed out the traditional doorstep fare and asked their names.

"I'm Jason," said the elder, "e's Wess." "Ah!" I said, "as in John Wesley?" "Nah!" came the rightly scornful reply, "Wess as in Wesson - Smif an' Wesson".

Yours truly,

SALLY HOLLOWAY,
95 Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13,
January 1.

Sports letters, page 22
Business letters, page 29

SOCIAL NEWS

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.N. Anderson
and **Miss M.E. McGahan**
The engagement is announced between Neal, son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Anderson, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Mary, daughter of Mr J.H.F. McGahan, MBE, and Mrs McGahan, of Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

Mr T.H.A. Barton
and **Miss F.J. Farnham**
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs T.H. Barton, of West Leake, Leicestershire, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs H. Farnham, of Heppost, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Mr M.J.M. Bennett
and **Miss C.A.M. Holford**
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Dr and Mrs P.M.J. Bennett, of Pierpoint House, Pyrford Woods, Woking, Surrey, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs F.L. Holford, of 46 London Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr S.M.R. Edwards
and **Miss G. Greenwood**
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Edwards, of Upton Bishop, Herefordshire, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Greenwood, of Otley, West Yorkshire.

Mr N.R. Elliot
and **Miss S.J. Anderson**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K. Elliot, of Ampleforth, North Yorkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs D. Anderson, Skelton, York.

Mr D.A. Esson
and **Miss L.M. Melconian**
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mrs Rhona Esson and the late Lieutenant A.F. Esson, RN, of Mill Hill, London, and Lucille Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.M. Melconian, also of Mill Hill, London.

Mr G.N.M. Lawton
and **Miss K.M. Platt**
The engagement is announced between Giles, elder son of Dr and Mrs R.M. Lawton, of Cumnor Hill, Oxford, (formerly of East Horsley) and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Platt, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr J.S. Moesel
and **Miss C.C. Start**
The engagement is announced between Joseph Sams, younger son of the late Mr Frederick C. Moesel, Jr, and of Mrs Moesel, of Rosemont, Pennsylvania, USA, and Claudia Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Start, of Scane Park, Ashburton, Devon, and St Antonin-Noble-Val, France.

Mr M.A. Norman
and **Miss S.J. Fenwick**
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr J.T. Norman, of Branksome, Dorset, and Mrs A.E. Norman, of London, N.W.1, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.T. Fenwick, of Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxon.

Mr S. Rieunau
and **Miss H. Browne**
The engagement is announced between Sylvain, younger son of Prof and Mme Maurice Rieunau, of Grenoble, France, and Helen, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs John Browne, of Ballycassidy, Co Fermanagh, Ireland.

Mr F.J.D. Somerville-Cotton
and **Miss D.A. Lax**
The engagement is announced between Fabian, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs G.J. Somerville-Cotton, of Atworth, Wiltshire, and Deborah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C.E. Lax, of Montreal, Canada.

Mr A.J. Taylor
and **Miss C.F. Vartan**
The engagement is announced between Alistair James, son of Dr and Mrs F.R. Taylor, of Silsoe, Bedfordshire, and Caroline Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.B.R. Vartan, of Castor, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Mr D.J.M. Taylor
and **Miss S.E. Carroll**
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr Philip Taylor and Mrs Barbara Taylor, of Freehorpe, Norfolk, and Sarah Elizabeth, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs D.H. Carroll, of Hyde, Cheshire.

Mr R.C.H. de Vahl Rubin
and **Miss V.P.H. Talbot Rice**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Mark de Vahl Rubin and the late Mrs Hilary Rubin, of Baywater, London, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Talbot Rice, of Barnfield House, Cowfold, Sussex.

Mr A.M. Vincent
and **Miss E.J. Cortine**
The engagement is announced between Andrew Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs R. Vincent, of Arpinge, Kent, and Emma Jane, eldest daughter and daughter of Mr and Mrs T.G. Cogon, of Bures St Mary, Suffolk.

Mr D.G. Yates
and **Miss N.M.L. Hunt**
The engagement is announced between Duncan Guy, younger son of Mr Rodney Yates, of Marlham, Peterborough, and Mrs Arthur Collins, of Great Sampford, Essex, and Nicola Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Howard Hunt, of Kensington, London.

Birthdays today

Professor Isaac Asimov, author, 72; Mr David Bailey, photographer, 54; Mr N.J. Barin, chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 58; Sir Richard Baylis, former Physician to the Queen, 75; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Associated Nuclear Services, 80; Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilders, 56; the Duke of Devonshire, 72; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, geologist, 82; Mr Walter Hurrell, former MP, 71; Miss Hilary Heilbrun, QC, 43; Sir Anthony Lincoln, diplomat, 81; Mr Doug McVay, trades unionist, 53; Lord Nelson of Stafford, 75; Mr D.B. Patullo, governor, Bank of Scotland, 54; Sir Charles Reece, former group research and technology director, ICI, 65; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 76; the Earl of St. Germain, 51; Sir Marsha Sir Ernest Sidney, 79; Sir Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 59; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, composer, 87; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 68; the Right Rev Kenneth Woodhouse, former Bishop of Oxford, 68.

Marriage

Mr R.B. Smith
and **Mrs A.E. Hurley**
The marriage took place, quietly, on Sunday, December 15, at Wethersfield, between Mr Richard Barclay Smith and Mrs Ann Elizabeth Hurley.

Anniversaries

BIRTH: Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, Australia, 1866.
DEATHS: Fabian Bellingsham, polar explorer, Russia, 1852; Alexander William Kinglake, historian of the Crimean War, London, 1891; Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal 1836-81; Anwick, Northumberland, 1892; Sir Edward Tylor, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, London, 1946; Dick Powell, film actor, 1963.

Appointments

Veterinary products committee: Professor J. Armour, vice principal of Glasgow University to be chairman for a term of four years. The following have been appointed members of the committee for a term of four years: Dr N. Bateman, Dr A. Cooke and Professor R. Richards, Professor P. Higgs, Miss K. Gibson, Dr R. Heitzman, Professor G. E. Laming and Professor I. K. M. Smith have been reappointed to the committee, also for terms of four years.

Bridewell in danger

CONSERVATIONISTS are trying to save the Georgian bridewell at Wymondham, Norfolk, which inspired the first penitentiary in the United States. Parts of the building are still occupied but the magistrates court sat there for the last time on Tuesday, and new uses for the vacant rooms are being sought. A feasibility study is being prepared by the Civil Trust.

The bridewell was considered a move towards a better penal system when it opened in 1785. Underground cells were provided to keep different types of offenders apart and the sexes were segregated.

ed. Sir Thomas Beevor, the man behind the scheme, believed that solitary confinement was more effective than whipping. He also advocated hard labour as a deterrent to crime.

The concept was noticed in Philadelphia, and the Bridewell example copied widely in the United States in the late 18th century.

A part of the building was converted into a lock-up house for convicted prisoners and living quarters for a policeman in 1848. It was also used as the local police station until a new one was erected in the early 1960s.

OBITUARIES

SERGEANT-MAJOR PHIL PHILLIPS

Sergeant-Major Horace Cyril "Phil" Phillips, MBE, MVO, Welsh Guards, former sergeant-major of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, died on Christmas Day aged 76. He was born on March 27, 1915.

THE Duke of Kent, King Husain of Jordan, nine foreign princes, two sultans and a sheikh were among the 6,000 cadets trained by Phil Phillips. When he marched off the parade ground at Sandhurst for the last time, as Academy Sergeant-Major — the most senior sergeant-major in the army — it could truly be said that he had moulded a new generation of young officers.

Phillips himself belonged to a new generation of sergeant-majors — though he might not have looked it. Well over six foot and weighing 14 stone, a former guards lightweight boxing champion, he appeared every inch the traditional RSM as he towered over his charges on the square, his boots and brasses outshining their own.

He believed in the virtues of drill, if only to teach soldiers how to react to a command, and he cultivated a resonant bellow to go with it. He argued that it was no use calling "Fire!" on the battlefield if the men had to shout back "What?" He was horrified on a visit to West Point to find the drill instructors using megaphones.

Underneath, however, Phillips was a gentle giant who never swore at or bullied his recruits. He thought seriously about his work and responsibilities. He read widely on politics and current affairs and advised all his cadets to do the same. Before being posted with his regiment overseas he would spend days studying the local situation.

Phillips was born at Chesham, Kent, into an army family. His father had served in both the Boer War and the first world war and although young Phil trained as a



butcher on leaving school, his ambition was always to sign on with the Welsh Guards. He did so in 1934 and after his first spell of public duties in London, mounting guard at Buckingham Palace, he went with his battalion to Gibraltar. When war broke out, it became the first unit of the British Expeditionary Force, sailing to Marseilles by battleship then travelling north by train.

Phillips was captured near Arras, however, during the Dunkirk retreat and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner in Poland, in *Stalag 383*. The Germans started moving their prisoners west to escape from the advancing Russians in 1945 and Phillips was one of a group who wrested control from the SS shortly before they were liberated by the Americans.

He then volunteered to return to active service and was

about to be drafted to the Far East when Japan surrendered. Instead he went with the Welsh Guards to Palestine and on return took part in the first trooping of the colour since the war. The escort to the colour was provided by the Welsh Guards 1st battalion's Prince of Wales company with Phillips as the company sergeant-major.

After postings in West Germany and Berlin he took part in the 1953 coronation, then went on his first tour of duty at Sandhurst, as regimental sergeant-major of Old College, one of the three constituent parts of the academy. He was seconded to the King's African Rifles in East Africa, then in the early 1960s returned to Sandhurst as Academy Sergeant-Major in succession to the legendary John Lord.

Colleagues warned him

that Lord would be a difficult act to follow, especially as Phillips was the first Welsh Guardsman in the job, following a long line of Grenadiers. But when Phillips retired in December 1970, marching off Old College steps after Sovereign's Parade while the band played "Auld Lang Syne" he had carved out his own place in Sandhurst history.

The army said at the time that had he accepted the chance of a commission he would probably have become a lieutenant-colonel. But he argued that while there were many lieutenant-colonels, there was only one Academy Sergeant-Major. On retirement he was offered the post of senior messenger sergeant-major of the Queen's Bodyguard, twinned with that of superintendent of St James's Palace. The first involved organising the 66-man bodyguard as its only permanent official — and parading with them in Tudor uniform and white ruff.

Already the veteran of King George VI's Silver Jubilee, George V's funeral and eight troopings of the colour, he now added a succession of state occasions, including the Prince of Wales's wedding and the annual state opening of Parliament. One of his last parades marked the bodyguard's 500th anniversary.

His other job consisted of running St James's Palace state apartments and brought with it his own apartment at the palace. After ten years, when he was 65, the Queen took the unusual step of asking him to stay on for five more years, after which he finally retired to his native Wales.

Phil Phillips was a notable rugby player in his youth, turning out as flanker for Newport, London Welsh and the army and for the Welsh Guards when they won the army cup after the war. In retirement he still played golf and worked for his local church and army charities.

He is survived by his wife Glens, their son and two daughters.

ISTVAN VAS

István Vas, Hungarian autobiographer, translator, essayist and poet, died in Budapest on December 16 aged 81. He was born there on September 24, 1910.

ISTVÁN Vas, one of Hungary's most distinguished and learned men of letters, was most famous for his four-volume autobiography, *Névtelen szellem* (1964-1967, "A Difficult Love"), *Miért vívjak a Szakszék?* (1981 "Why Does the Eagle Screech?") and *Az utolsó "Afterwards"*, a valuable behind-the-scenes guide to both inter-war and post-war Hungarian literary life, as well as to the personal mental struggles of a man of integrity and liberal sensibility to adjust to a difficult environment. Vas won Hungary's leading literary prize, the *Kossuth*, twice.

Born into a Jewish family, Vas reluctantly pursued a business career until 1945, when he went into publishing with its extreme vicissitudes, owing to the intrusion of semi-literate Stalinist culture-clerks into what was "correct" or otherwise. He threaded his way through these sinister labyrinths with tact and honour, turning his own genius for some long time to translation, that common refuge of liberals

trapped by the restrictions imposed by the post-war Russian empire. Among his most remarkable translations are those from Villon (1940), Apollinaire (1940), the English metaphysical poets (1946) and from Shakespeare, Racine, O'Neill and Maeterlinck. It is in these and in his majestic autobiography that Vas showed his capacities most clearly.

Vas came first under the influence of the aggressive avant garde artistic poet Lajos Kassák, whose real heyday had been in the years of the first world war and just after. Now a rather isolated, if still powerful, figure who had spent six years of exile in Vienna, on account of his part in the communist coup, he ran the magazine *Munka* (1928-39), as an alternative to the more conservative mainstream *Nyugat* ("West") of Mihály Babits and his circle. This had been running since the first decade of the century. Kassák, whose stepdaughter Vas married in 1936, ran *Munka* as an experimental alternative to *Nyugat*, and influenced Vas in the deliberate bucolism of his first collection of poems, *Őszi Romok* (1932, "Autumn Destruction"), which,

nevertheless, clearly showed his classical leanings. Later Vas turned increasingly to Babits, and ended by being regarded as a leading representative of the last phase of *Nyugat*. His poetry was somewhat self-conscious and original in its themes, and he never asserted himself as a major figure in this genre as the incomparable Endre Ady before him and Attila József just after him. However, he was a master of poetic technique — no Hungarian poet of this century could better him: "Vas," wrote a French critic, "achieved an astonishingly soft and calm tone in a paradoxically severe poetry of vast cosmic implications."

The few available translations of his work into English cannot do justice to him because of this — and also, perhaps, because they have for the most part been done from indifferent cribs supplied by professors. His most impressive and representative collection was *Atemerített világ* (1956, "The Creation"); this consists of a selection of poetry from the period 1920-1939, together with new war and post-war poems. It might be said that Vas had almost too much mastery over language, since the quality known as inspiration — the

sheer compulsion to write — does not mark his poetry as a whole.

Although he had converted to Christianity upon his marriage to Kassák's stepdaughter, Vas, from the time he turned towards Babits gradually changed his religious philosophy and finally became, so far as is apparent, the kind of rationalist-humanist who found his roots mainly in medieval thinking. However, a vital strand of semi-mystical belief remained, from a figure with whom he most liked to identify himself, Nicolas of Cusa (1401-64), the German neoplatonic cardinal-philosopher who believed that truth is inaccessible to human beings, and that God can only be discovered by intuition since he exists only where "all contradictions meet".

Vas was a very distinguished essayist, especially on Hungarian subjects, and a much-prized and generous mentor to younger writers. Flashier talents who had compromised themselves often eluded him in the difficult years, but he emerged into post-communism with rare credit. He was married twice more, in 1945, and then again, finally happily, in 1951.

Jaw fossil is given new date

A FOSSIL jawbone long hailed as one of the earliest human remains in Spain has been shown to be less than 50,000 years old (Norman Hammond writes). The Banyolas mandible, found in 1887 in Catalonia, has been compared with the oldest specimens of *Homo sapiens* from Europe and estimated to be at least 100,000, and perhaps a quarter of a million, years old.

Recent studies have compared it with early remains from Mauer in Germany and Arago in the Pyrenees.

BRITISH archaeologists are to join in the exploration of one of the great caravan cities of Central Asia. Merv, in Turkmenia, has been selected by Unesco as an area of world historic importance, and scholars from the EC and Russia are taking part.

The Merv oasis, on the ancient route west from Samarkand to the Caspian, was a vital staging post on the Silk Road as well as the centre of an important farming region. The city was fought over by the Medes, Achaemenids, Seleucids and Parthians, and

their Moslem successors: one of its attractions to archaeologists is how often the settlement was rebuilt in different spots, leaving several sets of impressive ruins spread over the arid landscape. Because of the principal river, the Murghab, has also shifted its course, modern Merv (now known as Mary) lies 12 miles west of the ancient walls, and cities up to 2,500 years old lie open for investigation.

"We will undertake a detailed topographic and ceramic survey to set these excavations in context," Dr

Georgina Herrman, of University College London, said. "We also plan limited excavation and a survey of standing monuments, to prepare a synopsis for publication by the city of Merv in 1995."

The British effort will be concentrated in the oldest parts of Merv: the massive circular enclosure of Erk Acha is thought to date to Achaemenid times, while about it are the walls of Giora Qala, the rectangular-planned city of Antiochia in Margiana laid out by Ant-

ochus I, one of the early Seleucid successors to Alexander the Great. They were occupied until the eighth century AD and cover more than 1,000 acres.

Satellite imagery processed by computers in Paris and Boston will provide background detail for the surface mapping, while Italian, Russian and Turkmen archaeologists will work in co-operation with the London team.

"Merv was a frontier city, exposed to many different influences. This cosmopolitan life is reflected by the wide range of religious structures, including the westernmost Buddhist shrines and unique Christian and Zoroastrian buildings," Dr Herrman said. "In its greatest period of glory, the eleventh and twelfth centuries, it was the principal eastern capital of the great Seljuk Empire."

The new project will begin in August. Dr Herrman does not expect the collapse of the old Soviet Union to affect the Turkmenian government's support for the work.

DENNIS MARTIN-JENKINS

Dennis Martin-Jenkins, TD, shipping industry leader, died on December 4 aged 80. He was born on January 7, 1911.

DENNIS Martin-Jenkins revolutionised Ellerman Lines, the shipping company, turning it from a sleepy, conventional liner company into a soundly performing, diversified group with professional management and excellent businesses in container shipping, brewing, travel and the ownership of The Belfry Hotel and Golf Courses. He gave great service to the world's shipping industry. He was president of the UK Chamber of Shipping in 1965 and chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping from 1971-77, where his charm and humour were much respected and admired by the international community.

He was chairman of the Standard Protection and Indemnity Association for 12 years and for many years, a member of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, the Port of London Authority and the British Transport Docks Board. He was also Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights in 1981-82. In 1970 he helped form, and became chairman until 1991, of the Charitable Trusts founded by Sir John Ellerman.

He was remembered for his ability to make occasions warm, light-hearted and fun. A Roman Catholic, who was educated at Marlborough College and Lausanne University, he worked for Rochlings, steel manufacturers, in Germany in 1932, as a contract flower salesman in Birmingham, and as an insurance broker before joining Ellerman Lines in 1936. He married Dr Rosemary Walker, a member of a long established Peterborough medical family in 1937, and he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel

during the second world war. After the war, he made his mark with Ellermans in Glasgow and Liverpool and moved to London as a director in 1951. His hard work, negotiating abilities and leadership qualities led to his becoming company chairman from 1967 to 1981 and managing director from 1967 to 1976.

In addition to his business activities, Martin-Jenkins gave much time and effort to secure the future of St Bede's School, Eastbourne, his old prep school, where he became chairman of the governors, and later life president.

Martin-Jenkins had a strong and, at times, outrageous character and personality. Aggressive, combative and domineering, he was also warm, charming and funny.

For a man whose real loves were his family, people and sport — he was an excellent tennis player and cricketer — it is fitting that it was perhaps The Belfry, home of Europe's Ryder Cup Golf victories in 1985 and 1989, that gave him his greatest business satisfaction. An investment scorned by many at Ellermans as "The chairman's folly", the hotel became valued at fifty times its original cost.

He is survived by his wife and three sons.



CHARLES LEVINE

Charles A. Levine who in 1927 became the first man to fly the Atlantic non-stop as a passenger, died in Washington on December 6 aged 94. He was born in North Adams, Massachusetts, in 1897.

CHARLES Levine was almost, but not quite, a great American hero. But for an untimely quarrel which delayed the take-off of his aircraft for a few hours, the mantle which fell on Charles Lindbergh would have belonged to him and to his pilot, Clarence Chamberlain.

On May 21, 1927, both Levine's aircraft, the Columbia and Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis, were ready for flight at Roosevelt Field on Long Island. Levine had in fact been ready for some time, and the Columbia had set a world endurance record of 51 hours the previous month. But a dispute over who should share the prize money being offered for the first transatlantic flight had led to an injunction being placed on the aircraft by the would-be co-pilot of Columbia, Lloyd Bertaud.

The injunction was lifted that afternoon, but Lindbergh had already taken off at dawn, and a frustrated Levine cancelled his own flight to Paris. Instead, he announced that he and Chamberlain would attempt to fly non-stop to Berlin on June 4.

The pair ran out of fuel

about 100 miles short of their objective, landing in the German town of Eilsleben. They had set a new world record of 3,911 miles in 43 hours of non-stop flight, flying 295 miles further than their rival. But the honours, the prize and later the tragedy, belonged to Lindbergh.

At the time of the flight, Levine was a self-made millionaire, his fortune founded on a contract with the US War Department which gave him the right to buy and dispose of spent shell casings. He had left school before graduation to help in his father's scrap metal business, and set up his own company in 1917.

He branched out into airplane manufacturing during the 1920's, and though much of his wealth was lost in the stock market crash at the end of the decade he continued to back flying adventures and spent large sums on experimental planes.

Levine fell foul of the law in 1937, when he was jailed for two years on a smuggling-conspiracy charge involving 2,000 pounds of Canadian tungsten powder. Then in 1942 he was accused of smuggling a German alien into the US from Mexico. The alien concerned was identified at the trial as a refugee from a concentration camp, but it made no difference: Levine went back to jail for 150 days.

He is survived by his daughter.

Archaeology

Britons to map ancient caravan city

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH archaeologists are to join in the exploration of one of the great caravan cities of Central Asia. Merv, in Turkmenia, has been selected by Unesco as an area of world historic importance, and scholars from the EC and Russia are taking part.

The Merv oasis, on the ancient route west from Samarkand to the Caspian, was a vital staging post on the Silk Road as well as the centre of an important farming region. The city was fought over by the Medes, Achaemenids, Seleucids and Parthians, and

their Moslem successors: one of its attractions to archaeologists is how often the settlement was rebuilt in different spots, leaving several sets of impressive ruins spread over the arid landscape. Because of the principal river, the Murghab, has also shifted its course, modern Merv (now known as Mary) lies 12 miles west of the ancient walls, and cities up to 2,500 years old lie open for investigation.

"We will undertake a detailed topographic and ceramic survey to set these excavations in context," Dr

Georgina Herrman, of University College London, said. "We also plan limited excavation and a survey of standing monuments, to prepare a synopsis for publication by the city of Merv in 1995."

The British effort will be concentrated in the oldest parts of Merv: the massive circular enclosure of Erk Acha is thought to date to Achaemenid times, while about it are the walls of Giora Qala, the rectangular-planned city of Antiochia in Margiana laid out by Ant-

ochus I, one of the early Seleucid successors to Alexander the Great. They were occupied until the eighth century AD and cover more than 1,000 acres.

Satellite imagery processed by computers in Paris and Boston will provide background detail for the surface mapping, while Italian, Russian and Turkmen archaeologists will work in co-operation with the London team.

"Merv was a frontier city, exposed to many different influences. This cosmopolitan life is reflected by the wide range of religious structures, including the westernmost Buddhist shrines and unique Christian and Zoroastrian buildings," Dr Herrman said. "In its greatest period of glory, the eleventh and twelfth centuries, it was the principal eastern capital of the great Seljuk Empire."

The new project will begin in August. Dr Herrman does not expect the collapse of the old Soviet Union to affect the Turkmenian government's support for the work.

Scotland will get liver unit

By KERRY GILL

SCOTLAND is to have its first liver transplant unit ending the need for patients to travel to England for transplant surgery.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish health minister, said that the unit would be able to handle up to 50 transplants a year. At present about 25 patients go to England each year for liver transplants.

"These operations are now an established and successful part of NHS treatment. I believe there is a clear case for establishing such a service in Scotland, and I have decided to do so as soon as possible," Mr Forsyth said.

"Kidney and cornea transplants are already carried out in Scotland, as is transplantation of bone and bone marrow. Heart transplant operations will shortly begin at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The establishment of a liver transplantation unit is a logical next step."

Health, page 9

Shedding her shyness



Kirsty MacColl: low-key performer who generates warmth on stage

NEW RELEASES

GURLY SUE (PG) On man and mouse with the heart of a corporate attorney. Ugly new of slapstick and sentiment, with a reasonable child star (Ariana Portier) With James Belushi, Kelly Lynch, director, John Hughes. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

THE PEOPLE UNDER THE STAIRS (18) Ghetto burglars penetrate their evil landlord's house. Lovely mix of horror, Grimm fairy story, and social tale from director Wes Craven. Starring Brandon Adams, Everett McGill, Wendy Robie. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

RIDICULOUS (PG) Favoretto hits the high notes, but Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's film of Verdi's opera remains regrettably television-made for television. In 1863 With Trevor Nunn, Edie Gubrowsky, and Riccardo Chailly conducting the Vienna Philharmonic. Barbe: (071-559 1827).

CURRENT

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (PG) Tasty twist of black humour. Inspired by the 1960s TV spin-off from Charles Addams's macabre cartoons. Starring Paul Giamatti, Anjelica Huston, Christopher Lloyd, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

AN AMERICAN TAIL: FIEVEL GOES WEST (U) Hechre seeks to the 1887 animation hit about emigrant mice. Best when it returns to Western cliché. A Steven Spielberg production, directors, Phil Nibbelink, Simon Wells.

BECKET: Rivaling performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in Anouilh's play on the relationship between Thomas à Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-530 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

BLOOD WEDDING: Lora's tragedy relocated in Cuba but the usual passion is still blood. Lora, National (Cottesloe), South Bank, London SE1 (071-528 2232). Tonight, 7.30pm. 15mins.

THE CABINET MINISTER: Derek Nimmo and Maureen Lipman in a snobish, largely unfunny Pinero comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-871 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

DANCING AT LUGHANNA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory play, set in 1930s Donegal, returns with a new cast. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Wed, Thurs, 3pm. Sat, 4pm. 15mins.

DYLAN THOMAS: RETURN JOURNEY: Bob Kington's spell-binding portrayal of Dylan giving us the works. Lyric Studio, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Wed, Thurs, 2.45pm, Sat, 4.30pm. Final week.

ELECTRA: Fiona Shaw's gut-ripping performance, ferociously self-giving and vengeful, in Deborah Warner's first-class production. Riverside Studios, Chiswick Road, W6 (081-748 3354). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 90mins. Final week.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER: Sometimes dark look at the loneliness of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, London WC2 (071-494 5078). Mon-Thurs, 8pm. Fri, Sat, 8.30pm. Wed, 8.45pm. Final week.

GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY: Cheerful lip through Fifties and Sixties' funny plot but no matter. Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (071-835 8332). Mon-Thurs, 8pm. Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. 120mins. Final week.

THE GREAT PRETENDERS: Young Diogenes and his martyred victim, Cynosurus, the patron saint of actors, in Lope de Vega's moral comedy. Brinsford Playhouse. Galle, Prince Albert Road, 11 Pentridge Road, W11 (071-229 0700). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 120mins.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: Glimmering production tells an irrepressible tale of Black, with Tudor Dances a grand finale. Piccadilly, Denham Street, W1 (071-530 8800). 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: The company, with its new artistic director, Christopher Ben Stevenson, has based this version on the Houston production, following Hoffmann's traditional story and aiming its appeal at both children and adults. The attractive new designs are by Desmond Heeley. In today's main performance Ludmila Semenyaka dances the Sugar Plum Fairy opposite Carlos Acosta as the Prince, and Renata Calkins dances the Snow Queen in the evening performance. The Estonian couple of Agnes Ojaks and Rebecca Ecu head the cast, along with Rebecca Sewell. (See review, right). Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071 928 8800). 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

LEON GOLUB: The American Leon Golub is one of the few fundamentally representative artists who has, throughout the history of the art world, retained the approval of the art world. Probably this has had something to do with the strong political message his work usually carried. But disapproval of irony and torture in itself would not

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Φ) on release across the country.

CANDOR PARKWAY (17) 267 7034 Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

THE COMMITMENTS (15) Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

DANCES WITH WOLVES (15) Kevin Costner and the noble Sioux return; but this time the film lasts almost four hours, thanks to 52 extra minutes saved from the cutting room floor. An unnecessary revival. Odéon Haymarket (0426 914566).

DEAD AGAIN (15) An LA. horror murder from the shorts on return to haunt Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson. Nonsensical, over-the-top suspense thriller. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

EDWARD II (18) Revolting reworking of Marlowe's play by Derek Jarman; words and images leap out at the audience. Steven Waddington and Andrew Tiernan as star-crossed royal lovers. Tika Swenson an exasperated Queen. Cannon Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

ENCHANTED APRIL (U) Four Englishmen share an Italian villa in the 1920s; witty lines, fine performances, avowed entertainment. Starring Miranda Richardson, Joan Plowright, Joe Lawrence, director, Mike Newell. Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

THE FISHER KING (15) Jim Carrey and Robin Williams, the two lost souls from the myth of time up against modern-day reality. Wayward, over-the-top. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

HOT SHOTS (12) Spoof comedy from Armand Assante. With Charlie Sheen, Lloyd Bridges, and far too good jokes. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

THE RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (U) The star mice from Disney's 1977 The Rescuers return to rescue a kidnapped boy. Unimpressive cartoon feature for the easily pleased. Directors, Hendel Soley, Mike Gabrel. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

THE SEA: Judi Dench spends as the village grande dame in a revival of Edward Bond's "comedy" of rage and madness. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-822 2232). Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. 145mins.

THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JYLL AND MR HYDE: Roger Allam, Simon Russell Beale play after episode: gripping but after early longeurs. Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES: Brothers: Lively parade of musical oldies. Good fun. Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-957 1119). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 9pm. 120mins.

LONG RUNNERS: Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-439 4805). Blood Brothers: Phoenix (071-871 1044). Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-434 0031). Carlinco: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Newmarket (071-559 1827) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Grand version of the Verdi libretto, times by Offenbach. Verdi and Webster, not by Offenbach. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-579 5389). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Wed, 8.45pm. 150mins.

THE PHILADELPHIA: Full version of Shaw's well-known but on musical could think. Frick, fascinating. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, London N1 (071-2001). Mon-Sat, mat Fri, Sat, 4pm. 160mins. Final week.

THE REVENGERS' COMEDIES: Alan Ayckbourn's ambitious, two-part comedy based on the meeting of an incongruous pair (Giff Hynes and John Williams). Less fun than one might hope, but worth the time. Phoenix, 111 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (071-240 0300). Part 1: Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm, Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Part 2: Tues, Wed, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm. 150mins each. Final week.

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London.

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

857 1118. Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE: You like Narnia or you don't? If you do, this production is a masterpiece of stagecraft and clarity. Marmaduke, Puddle Dock, ECA (071-410 0000). Mon-Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. 120mins.

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL: Pleasantly surprising version of Hans Christian Andersen tale, neatly staged and touching. Orange Tree, 1 Clarence Street, London E8 (071-840 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. 135mins.

THE MYSTERY OF MARIA MARTIN: Chris Bond's entertaining detective comedy reopens a famous Victorian murder case. Warehouse, Oldway Road, East Croydon (081-680 4050). Tues-Sat, 8pm. 135mins.

ONCE A CATHOLIC: Welcome return of Mary J. O'Malley's romping comedy about convent girls growing up. Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-957 1119). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 9pm. 120mins.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Grand version of the Verdi libretto, times by Offenbach. Verdi and Webster, not by Offenbach. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-579 5389). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Wed, 8.45pm. 150mins.

THE PHILADELPHIA: Full version of Shaw's well-known but on musical could think. Frick, fascinating. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, London N1 (071-2001). Mon-Sat, mat Fri, Sat, 4pm. 160mins. Final week.

THE REVENGERS' COMEDIES: Alan Ayckbourn's ambitious, two-part comedy based on the meeting of an incongruous pair (Giff Hynes and John Williams). Less fun than one might hope, but worth the time. Phoenix, 111 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (071-240 0300). Part 1: Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm, Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Part 2: Tues, Wed, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm. 150mins each. Final week.

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

THE RIDE DOWN AT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

ROCK

Billy Bragg/Kirsty MacColl/Hackney Empire

"LET'S remember the hostages who are home at last," said Billy Bragg as the seconds ticked away to midnight on New Year's Eve. The Birmingham Six, the Tottenham Three... "hostages of the British legal system." A mighty roar went up, then it was the bells — courtesy of Radio 2, which seemed bizarre, given that the show was being broadcast live on Greater London Radio — followed by an up-tempo pseudo-skillie version of "Auld Lang Syne".

Bragg's year-end shows have become a tradition, and like other regular seasonal rock shows — by Lindisfarne, Gary Glitter, Marillion — it has become a relaxed and unchallenging ritual. There was a comedian, called Porky, who made fun of Americans and Northerners and parodied Bragg's song "Sexuality" by turning it into a hymn to the joys of bestiality. And there was, of course, Bragg himself, the perennial song and joke man with a shopping list of familiar political slogans.

And then there was Kirsty MacColl, seeing out a year of ups and downs with a burst of choruses of acid for her album *Electric Landlady*, but a rude shock when her record company initially declined to underwrite her touring costs.

It has to be said that, as a live performer, MacColl is not the best advertisement for her own work. The woman who pulled off the barely imaginable feat of providing a romantic foil for Shane MacGowan on The Pogues' song "A Fairytale of New York" is apparently a retiring person.

From Pavlova to Fonteyn, retirement by the calendar rather than ability has long been discredited. And Semenyaka's experience ought to make her just the example ENB's young dancers need if any of them are to make it to the top. On the other hand, form over the past three years or so raises the question of whether she may perhaps lack stamina. Her role as the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, requiring just one *pas de deux*, cannot answer that one way or the other.

What it did demonstrate was that her style looks very mannered and ornate against that of the other dancers around her, clashing with the forceful dancing of her exuberant and enthusiastic and very able partner, Jose Manuel Carreno. She offers much welcome detail, for instance in the angle of her head during turns. But extravagantly curling hands, make for a dainty finish, and she has developed a habit of screwing up her mouth as she approaches a tricky passage, then relaxing into a watery smile on completion.

How she will suit the rest of the repertoire remains to be seen; the verdict on this first showing will have to be the good old Scottish one of not proven.

JOHN PERCIVAL

DAVID SINCLAIR

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

DANCE

The Nutcracker Festival Hall

LUCKILY ballet companies have not taken up the idea of transfer fees, or else some of the changes now taking place might prove costly. Ludmila Semenyaka played her first match — sorry, danced her first performance — for English National Ballet on New Year's Eve. Not as a guest, but as a full member of the company. Is she the answer to ENB's prayers?

At the box office her presence should be a draw; you do not get to be a leading ballerina of the Bolshoi Ballet and a People's Artist of the Soviet Union for nothing (think of her in terms of Dame Ludmilla, the approximate equivalent). And on stage she dances as if very much aware of her star status.

Why, you may wonder, should she leave her established position in Moscow for the largely nomadic life of ENB? Well, apart from the obvious material factors, the word from Russia is that the Bolshoi Ballet's director, Yuri Grigorovich, hardly wants to see anyone over 25 on stage nowadays. And Semenyaka hits 40 this month.

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT

Vienna PO/Kleiber Radio 3/BBC 2

THIS year, as last, governments will rise and fall, fortunes will be made and lost. But the morning concert every New Year's day in the Musikverein is the Vienna Philharmonic's matchless way of reminding the world that life holds more vital things than power and politics. Listening to this orchestra skipping through the *Radezky March* always reminds me of the old joke about how a particular military defeat in the first world war was described in Berlin as "serious but not hopeless", and in Vienna as "hopeless but not serious".

Yesterday, the Vienna Philharmonic was at its most motivated — for two good reasons. The concert launched the orchestra's 150th anniversary year; and it was conducted by that enigmatic genius, Carlos Kleiber.

"Conducting" is a word that does scant justice to Kleiber's movements. Somehow out of his weird choreography emerge performances of utmost intensity and perfection. The little upbeat hesitations of the Johann and Josef Strauss waltzes were

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT

Vienna PO/Kleiber Radio 3/BBC 2

THIS year, as last, governments will rise and fall, fortunes will be made and lost. But the morning concert every New Year's day in the Musikverein is the Vienna Philharmonic's matchless way of reminding the world that life holds more vital things than power and politics. Listening to this orchestra skipping through the *Radezky March* always reminds me of the old joke about how a particular military defeat in the first world war was described in Berlin as "serious but not hopeless", and in Vienna as "hopeless but not serious".

Yesterday, the Vienna Philharmonic was at its most motivated — for two good reasons. The concert launched the orchestra's 150th anniversary year; and it was conducted by that enigmatic genius, Carlos Kleiber.

"Conducting" is a word that does scant justice to Kleiber's movements. Somehow out of his weird choreography emerge performances of utmost intensity and perfection. The little upbeat hesitations of the Johann and Josef Strauss waltzes were

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT

Vienna PO/Kleiber Radio 3/BBC 2

THIS year, as last, governments will rise and fall, fortunes will be made and lost. But the morning concert every New Year's day in the Musikverein is the Vienna Philharmonic's matchless way of reminding the world that life holds more vital things than power and politics. Listening to this orchestra skipping through the *Radezky March* always reminds me of the old joke about how a particular military defeat in the first world war was described in Berlin as "serious but not hopeless", and in Vienna as "hopeless but not serious".

Yesterday, the Vienna Philharmonic was at its most motivated — for two good reasons. The concert launched the orchestra's 150th anniversary year; and it was conducted by that enigmatic genius, Carlos Kleiber.

"Conducting" is a word that does scant justice to Kleiber's movements. Somehow out of his weird choreography emerge performances of utmost intensity and perfection. The little upbeat hesitations of the Johann and Josef Strauss waltzes were

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

JOHN PERCIVAL

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

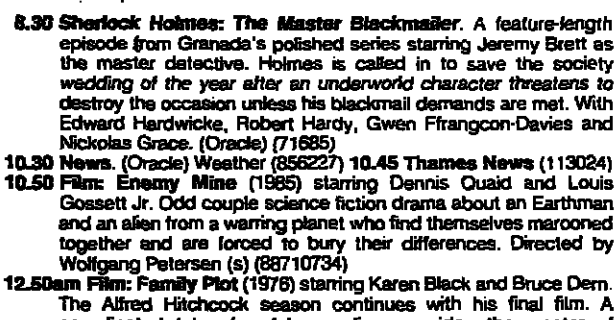
ADRIAN PHOENIX 071 436 7111. CC 021 370 2544/793 1001. CC 021 370 2544/793 1001. CC 021 370 2

ITV

CHANNEL 4

8.00 TV-am (8067482)
9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man (8843024) 8.50 Thames News (8400531)
9.55 Cosgrove Hall's *Box of Crackers: Cinderella*. Animated version of the classic fairy story (1) (8385685)
10.40 Film: *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958) Fantasy adventure starring Kerwin Mathews and Kathryn Grant. Sinbad goes in search of a magic eggshell, helped by marvellous special effects by Ray Harryhausen. Directed by Nathan Juran (97685005) 12.20 Cartoon. Photo of *the Fish* (8264019)
12.30 News. (Oracle) Weather (37647) 1.00 Thames News (6185511)
1.10 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial (6167534) 1.40 Anne - Ballerina. Concluding the German drama about an injured girl's fight to become a dancer (c) (25511840)
3.35 ITN News headlines (8882558) 3.40 Thames News headlines (8872111) 3.45 Cartoons. Disney double bill (8072802)
4.00 Film: *The Apple Dumpling Gang Rides Again* (1979) starring Clint Walker and Kim Connor. Disney comedy western about a pair of incompetent outlaws. Directed by Vincent McEveety (18656518)
5.40 News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) (99289) 5.55 Weather (21376)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (47)
6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (27)
7.00 Emmerdale. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Oracle) (2531)
7.30 Just for Laughs. A compilation of clips from British comedy film classics (1) (11)
8.00 The Best. The Best Puffin. Di Burmide is initially pleased when David Reid heads him a case of violent robbery. But pleasure turns to anger when DC Lums suggests that Reid knew that the case was a non-starter and dumped it on him. (Oracle) (8579)

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (8065024)
- 9.25 Sesame Street. Entertaining pre-school learning series. (80331024)
- 10.25 The Maltland and Morpeth String Quartet. An Australian instrumental, based on Nicholas Enright's poem (8039076)
- 11.00 Kabaddi. The women's semi-final. The favourites, West Bengal play Tamil Nadu (r) (8314)
- 11.30 Pro-Celebrity Golf introduced by Tony Jacklin. Gary Player is joined by James Bole and Sandy Lyle is partnered by Michael Kiernan over nine holes of the Dromedary Castle course near Shannon (36024)
- 12.30 Business Daily. The latest news from the world's money markets presented by Susanah Simons (35289)
- 1.00 Film: Blue Murder at St Trinians (1958, b/w). The appalling schoolgirls win a UNESCO prize trip to Rome where they become involved with a jewel thief and an impoverished Italian prince looking for a wife. A roster of British comic talent is headed by Alastair Sim as the headmaster, Tenny-Tomlin, Joyce Grenfell, George Cole and Lionel Jeffries. Directed by Frank Launder (1254831)
- 2.35 Madeline. Animation (4933260)
- 2.45 A Brush With Art. The eighth of Alyn Crawshaw's 12-part learnt to paint series. Today he illustrates how to set up a still-life subject and how to give it a three-dimensional feel. (Teletext) (972596)
- 3.15 A TV Dente. The seventh part of Peter Gernsey's (s) and Tony Philip's unusual interpretation of Dante's Inferno (r) (1987289)
- 3.30 The Peacock Screen. The final programme of the four-part series looking at Indian cinema. (Teletext) (82227)
- 4.30 Countdown. Richard Whitley introduces another round of the words and numbers game, assisted by Carol Vorderman (24)
- 5.00 Ganesh the Elephant God. The last in the series of Ganesh God's wildlife documentaries examines the Indian elephant's dual role as a symbol of worship and a burden (r). (Teletext) (9444)
- 6.00 The Gynael Mize. The first of a series of 11 repeats first seen earlier last year, introduced by Richard O'Brien (43208)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (387869)
- 7.50 Comment (563821)



Così on the beach: singers Kelly, Angel and Botes (8.00pm)

8.00 Opera on 4: Così Fan Tutti. The Opera Factory production of Mozart's story of lovers' infidelity and the heartbreak that follows, set in modern dress on a Mediterranean beach. With Christine Botes, Marie Angel, Neil Archer, Geoffrey Dalton, Janis Kelly and Thea Monnelly. (45/55)

11.20 It's Roger Melle - the Man on the Telly. Animated adventures of *Viz* magazine's odious comic-strip character (s) (6/42/27)

11.25 Bill Hicks - Relentless.

● **CHOICE:** Bill Hicks is a youngish American stand-up comedian who has been hailed by somebody or other as the new Lenny Bruce. Judging from his performance, the similarity lies in a general attempt to shock, including the liberal use of a particular four-letter word. This presumably explains why Channel 4 has scheduled the show so late in the evening. It was recorded at the 1991 Montreal International comedy festival, the only mining of the genre presented. Hicks dressed in black, performed on a dimly lit stage, and his only props are a stool supporting a glass of water. His style is conversational and eschews straight jokes in favour of pointed observations on a range of topics including the Gulf War, smoking, pornography, sex and drugs. In its measured way, some of it is very funny. There is also much that is meant to offend. (4/26/50)

12.25am Film: The Bacchantes (1961) starring Tana Elg and Pierre Brice. *The Sword and Sandal* season continues with a drama set in ancient Thesbe about a young slave who tries to save a beautiful woman from being sacrificed to a god. Directed by Antonio Fattori. In Italian with English subtitles (21/29/32). Ends at 2.10

9.50 Film: Yellow Wallpaper (1989).
C= CHOICE: A 19th-century ghost story with strong feminist underlines stars Stephen Dillane as an ambitious young doctor whose delicate manner does not extend to his nearest and dearest. When he and Julia Warriner suffer a stillborn, the birth of their child, his idea of a cure is to take her to a big house in the country, forbid her to read or to write and keep her as a virtual prisoner. Disturbed by the barred windows and sickly wallpaper of her attic bedroom, she begins a descent into madness. Maggie Wadley's screenplay is based on an autobiographical novella by the American writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman. The film's mood and characterization and intelligent performances sustain a low-key narrative that takes time to catch fire (R782444).

10.15 10x10. Social services worker Jim Boyle meets some strange people and their even stranger pets (V) (288734)

10.25 New Year: On 2 (503040) 10.30 Newsnight (252298)

11.15 Film: A Taste of Honey (1961) starring Rita Tushingham and Dora Bryan. The late Tony Richardson's evocative version of the Shostakovich play follows a young girl who leaves her mother and married friends with shy homosexual (R78378) 12.55am **Weather** (348366)

pieces, such as the kidnapping of a bishop from his cathedral in full view of the congregation. (26700086)

3.00 Film: Stranger in My Bed (1986) starring Lindsay Wagner and Armand Assante. Standard psychological thriller about a devoted mother who suffers from amnesia after being knocked down by a car. When she awakes in hospital her leaving hospital her husband and children seem to be complete strangers. Directed by Larry Elikann (469861)

4.50 Film: The Tale of Tsar Saltan (1994). Animated version of a popular Russian fairy tale based on a work by Alexander Pushkin (7029632)

5.55 News (5580945). Ends at 6.00

***VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus+ Codes**

The numbers recorded on each TV programme listing are Video Plus+® numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+® handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video sets. Tap in the Video Plus+ Code for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus+ on 0800 400 000 (call costs at 40p per minute plus 30c of post) or write to VideoPlus+, VTML Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W8 3UA. VideoPlus+® (P), Pluscode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Genstar Marketing Ltd.

PATEL: DE

[illegible][illegible]

How Frederick the Great inspired Kenneth Clarke



The Education Secretary makes his choice in TES Books of the Year.

TES
ICATIONA

(c) Stereo on FM
Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing, and 6.03
Weather 6.10 Farming Today
6.55 Prayer for the Day
7.30-8.30 News (incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30,
8.00, 8.30 News 8.55, 9.25, 9.50
Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 8.43
Morning News 8.58
Weather

9.00 News
9.05 Face the Facts: John Wate
opens a new series with a
series of short stories
covered in the past year (r)
9.30 How Green is My Salad? The
trial and tribulations of a
British environmental
broadcasteer, Fergus Keeling
9.50-10.30 Around the World in 80
Days (FM only): Burning to
Get Home, final part of Jules
Verne's story
10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW
only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only):
Chronicles; Paul Daneman
reads the penultimate part
Women's Hour, including a
discussion on willpower and
Jill Tweedie on prospects for
1992
10.30-11.00 From Our Own
Correspondent: Reflections on
life from abroad
11.00 News; You and Yours
11.25 Special Interview: Chairman Tim
Brooke-Taylor guesses which
one of his guests is telling the
tallest story
11.40 The World at One
The Archers (r), 1.55 Shipping
Forecast
12.00 Synoptic Variations:
Dramatisation of the life of the
French composer Claude Debussy
Franc, written by Bruce
Stewart (s)
Costumes: Cliff Michelmore
journs around the coast of
Greece (r)
12.40 Poetry: Simon Rae
introduces poetry and music
for the new year
1.00 News
1.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen
and the last night of
Tatler at Wembley Arena,
examines the rise of gospel
music and looks back at the
theatre in 1991 (s)
1.45 Short Story: Resurrection, by
Rory Doyle; Anne and Bernia
prepare for their sister
Megan's funeral, but a
difficulty arises
5.00 PM 5.55 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 Sir O'Clock News
6.30-7.00 Forward to the Past:
Robert Bock takes a light-
hearted look at the past with
some eminent guests (s) (r)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 Rank and File
● CHOICE: Emma Kingsley's
analysis of an archery
Manchester-based BBC
Philharmonic, self-strains the
record that was previously
held by Felini
He filmed *Orestes Rehearsal* in
1978. There is nothing in
Kingsley's documentary that
denies Felini's allegorical
representation of the
orchestra as a totalitarian
state instead, the focus
turns to on the hard slog
that goes into performances,
and there are some
discussions about the
historical and traditional
aspects of music-making that
will make your next visit to the
concert hall a different
experience from the last one
8.00 Sense and Nonsense
Anthology of prose, poetry
and music devised and
performed by Peggy Ashcroft
and Martin Best, recorded in
1955 (s) (r)
8.45 Truth to Tell (r)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar?
9.30 Calcutta (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight
(s); 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Country for a Country
Doctor's Notebook: Derek
Jacobs reads the final part of
Michael Bagshaw's novel (s)
11.00 Crucible: Bram Stoker's epic
tale of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
11.30 Sir Gawain and the Green
Knight: Nigel Ford reads one
of the masterpieces of
medieval alliterative poetry set
in the court of King Arthur (4
of 5 s)
11.45 From Downton to Wilderland:
Recent Portrait of the life of
Countess Elizabeth
Tyshenewicz (s)
12.00 News
12.30 Shipping Forecast; 12.43
World Service (LW only)

ENCODING: Radio 1: 1253.0/275MHz; 1089kHz/275fm; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 2:
1253.0/275MHz; 1089kHz/275fm; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 4: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 5: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 6: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 7: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 8: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 9: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 10: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 11: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 12: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 13: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 14: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 15: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 16: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 17: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 18: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 19: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 20: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 21: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 22: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 23: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 24: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 25: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 26: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 27: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 28: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 29: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 30: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 31: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 32: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 33: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 34: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 35: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 36: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 37: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 38: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 39: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 40: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 41: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 42: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 43: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 44: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 45: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 46: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 47: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 48: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 49: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 50: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 51: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 52: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 53: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 54: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 55: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 56: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 57: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 58: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 59: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 60: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 61: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 62: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 63: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 64: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 65: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 66: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 67: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 68: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 69: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 70: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 71: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 72: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 73: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 74: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 75: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 76: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 77: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 78: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 79: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 80: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 81: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 82: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 83: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 84: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 85: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 86: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 87: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 88: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 89: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 90: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 91: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 92: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.89 r; Radio 93: 1215kHz/247m; FM-93.7 6.89 r; Radio 94: 198kHz/155m; FM-104.9
6.8

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

● **View the Astoria satellites.**
 4.00pm *Seinfeld* (33/37) 4.30 *Porter*
 4.30 *Arrested Development* (22/20) 5.00 *The New Line Live* (1)
 6.00 *Home* (58/21) 5.30 *Green Acres* (59/40)
 6.00 *Home's Lucy* (37/37) 6.30 *T'Pood* (40/40)
 6.30 *Home's Lucy* (37/37) 6.30 *T'Pood* (40/40)
 8.00 *Home's Lucy* (37/37) 8.30 *David's Army*
 10.00 *30 Rock* (51/51) 10.30 *Standby* (50/50)
 10.30 *Home's Lucy* (37/37) 10.30 *The Last Laugh*
 (21/47) 10.30 *Barney Miller* (33/36) 11.00 *The*
Arrested Development (22/20) 11.30 *Kids*
 11.30 *Home's Lucy* (37/37) 11.30 *Kids*
 11.30 *Home's Lucy* (37/37) 11.30 *Kids*
 11.30 *Home's Lucy* (37/37) 11.30 *Kids*

SPORTS

● **Visit the Astoria and Maripolito Satellites.**
 6.30am *Amateur* (65/59) 7.00 *Netball*
 (45/50/43) 7.25 *Field Hockey* (59/59/42/27)
 7.50 *Amateur* (65/59) 8.00 *Amateur*
 8.30 *Sky Sports* (51/51) 8.30 *Amateur*
 (52/74) 8.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 8.30 *Amateur*
 9.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 9.00 *Amateur*
 9.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 9.30 *Amateur*
 10.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 10.00 *Amateur*
 10.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 10.30 *Amateur*
 11.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 11.00 *Amateur*
 11.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 11.30 *Amateur*
 12.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 12.00 *Amateur*
 12.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 12.30 *Amateur*
 13.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 13.00 *Amateur*
 13.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 13.30 *Amateur*
 14.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 14.00 *Amateur*
 14.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 14.30 *Amateur*
 15.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 15.00 *Amateur*
 15.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 15.30 *Amateur*
 16.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 16.00 *Amateur*
 16.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 16.30 *Amateur*
 17.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 17.00 *Amateur*
 17.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 17.30 *Amateur*
 18.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 18.00 *Amateur*
 18.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 18.30 *Amateur*
 19.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 19.00 *Amateur*
 19.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 19.30 *Amateur*
 20.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 20.00 *Amateur*
 20.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 20.30 *Amateur*
 21.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 21.00 *Amateur*
 21.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 21.30 *Amateur*
 22.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 22.00 *Amateur*
 22.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 22.30 *Amateur*
 23.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 23.00 *Amateur*
 23.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 23.30 *Amateur*
 24.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 24.00 *Amateur*
 24.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 24.30 *Amateur*
 25.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 25.00 *Amateur*
 25.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 25.30 *Amateur*
 26.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 26.00 *Amateur*
 26.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 26.30 *Amateur*
 27.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 27.00 *Amateur*
 27.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 27.30 *Amateur*
 28.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 28.00 *Amateur*
 28.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 28.30 *Amateur*
 29.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 29.00 *Amateur*
 29.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 29.30 *Amateur*
 30.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 30.00 *Amateur*
 30.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 30.30 *Amateur*
 31.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 31.00 *Amateur*
 31.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 31.30 *Amateur*
 32.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 32.00 *Amateur*
 32.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 32.30 *Amateur*
 33.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 33.00 *Amateur*
 33.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 33.30 *Amateur*
 34.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 34.00 *Amateur*
 34.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 34.30 *Amateur*
 35.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 35.00 *Amateur*
 35.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 35.30 *Amateur*
 36.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 36.00 *Amateur*
 36.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 36.30 *Amateur*
 37.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 37.00 *Amateur*
 37.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 37.30 *Amateur*
 38.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 38.00 *Amateur*
 38.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 38.30 *Amateur*
 39.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 39.00 *Amateur*
 39.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 39.30 *Amateur*
 40.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 40.00 *Amateur*
 40.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 40.30 *Amateur*
 41.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 41.00 *Amateur*
 41.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 41.30 *Amateur*
 42.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 42.00 *Amateur*
 42.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 42.30 *Amateur*
 43.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 43.00 *Amateur*
 43.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 43.30 *Amateur*
 44.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 44.00 *Amateur*
 44.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 44.30 *Amateur*
 45.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 45.00 *Amateur*
 45.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 45.30 *Amateur*
 46.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 46.00 *Amateur*
 46.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 46.30 *Amateur*
 47.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 47.00 *Amateur*
 47.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 47.30 *Amateur*
 48.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 48.00 *Amateur*
 48.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 48.30 *Amateur*
 49.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 49.00 *Amateur*
 49.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 49.30 *Amateur*
 50.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 50.00 *Amateur*
 50.30 *Amateur* (52/74) 50.30 *Amateur*
 51.00 *Amateur* (52/74) 51.0

the Great inspired Kenneth Clarke



The Education Secretary makes his
choice in TES Books of the Year.

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

75p

197mph wind lashes Britain

By KERRY GILL

A GUST of 197mph was reported in the North Sea yesterday as hurricane-force winds battered much of Scotland and the northern isles. The gust, described by the Aberdeen coastguard as exceptional, was recorded on the Brent Alpha oil platform, about 100 miles north-east of Shetland.

Winds exceeding 140mph imperilled shipping and oil installations, and gusts of more than 100mph damaged roofs, smashed windows and wrecked caravans on Shetland, and left roads blocked by fallen trees in northern and central Scotland.

One vessel, the Vessie Sapphire, drifted north of Shetland for almost four hours before the 12-man crew managed to restart her engines after she was left without power when a huge wave hit her wheelhouse. Conditions, described as atrocious, foiled an attempt to winch the crew off the oil supply vessel. Once power was regained, and the vessel limped towards Bergen, Norway, under escort.

A coastguard spokesman at Lerwick, Shetland, said: "Without engine power, you cannot turn round into the wind, so you are at the mercy of the elements. There was a vicious sea out there at the time and potentially it was very serious."

A 65,000-tonne oil tanker, Noga, had to ride out a hurricane force 12 wind 14 miles east of Shetland.

The worst-affected area was east of Shetland, where the Brent Delta oil installation recorded a 197mph gust, according to the coastguard. Westerly gales, often reaching 140mph, ripped through the oilfields before subsiding. "It was very short-lived, but extremely ferocious," the Aberdeen coastguard said.

Rigs lost anchor cables and liferafts, and supply vessels were battered by mountainous waves. At RAE Saxa Vord, on the Shetland island of Unst, radio aerials were blown down. Although buildings on the Shetland islands were built to resist high winds, there was widespread structural damage.

Police and firefighters evacuated a 20-caravan site on Shetland. Caravans at the Annesbrae site, Lerwick, were flattened by the wind.

Forecast, page 18
Snow Report, page 24

Fireworks greet 1992 in Moscow and London



Lighting up the new year: fireworks sparkle over the Kremlin, left, while laser lights join the foghorn-and-firework celebrations over Canary Wharf in London

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

TO the thousands of policemen who saw in the new year on duty around Britain, it was "just like a normal Saturday night". There were, of course, hundreds of arrests to be made, injuries to attend to, fights to break up, burglaries to investigate and even a distinctly embarrassed Royal Marine, dressed up in women's clothes, to rescue from his overturned car.

Most police forces reckoned, however, that the celebrations had gone off comparatively peacefully. It was certainly quieter in Britain than in the Philippines, for example, where 11 people died in fights in Manila and 1,300 people were wounded, mainly by bullets fired at random into the air as a way of celebration.

In Moscow, fireworks lit up the sky as Russians celebrated the first new year since 1917 without a red flag flying over the Kremlin. Die-hard communists tried to dampen

Royal Marine in drag brings bright touch to 'normal night' for police

the spirits of the revellers, but they were drowned out by the fireworks and the popping of champagne corks.

In Trafalgar Square, 157 people were arrested, including 40 for drunkenness and 54 for causing public disorder. Eight were charged with having offensive weapons and five with assault. Other arrests were for robbery, drug offences, criminal damage and indecent exposure.

In Manchester, police reported a calm night, and in the West Midlands a relieved and rather surprised senior officer said that it had actually been "quite enjoyable".

Police in Worthing and Tunbridge Wells — towns whose image is generally one of such tranquility — had to deal with scuffling groups

of youths and partygoers, and throughout the West Country there were minor scuffles, arrests and some injuries. Forty-eight people were arrested in Gloucestershire and 22 in Swindon in the three hours after midnight. Thieves broke into dozens of houses in Bristol while the owners were at parties.

Police at Thatcham in Berkshire had stones thrown at them as they tried to arrest a man, and there were fights in Henley-on-Thames. Reading, Milton Keynes and Scarborough. A police officer in Rushin, north Wales, needed 80 stitches after being thrown through a plate-glass window.

A young driver knocked down a man and three women as they walked along a pavement in Col-

chester, Essex. The man and two of the women suffered broken legs. The car, which smashed into a number of others, finally came to a stop and the driver, whom police said had been drinking, was arrested.

A mother and her young son died when their car plunged into a river at Willingham, near Cambridge, on their way to a party. The car driver, a family friend, was trapped in the car and died as it sank in deep water. The body of the four-year-old boy was spotted after having been thrown clear of the submerged wreckage.

A man aged 52 died in a house fire from which a second man escaped. Police are treating it as arson.

A man aged 45 was found dead in

suspicious circumstances in Crewe, Cheshire. A teenager fell into the River Hull in Humberside while walking home with a group of friends. One tried to save him, but had to be rescued himself. Despite a search by an RAF helicopter, the missing youth had still not been found by last night.

It was otherwise a generally quiet new year, lit up partly by the red checks of the Royal Marine, who was taken to Poole General Hospital, Dorset, wearing according to a straight-faced policeman, a mauve skirt and white top.

There he joined another victim of Dorset-style celebrations: a 40-year-old man dressed as a fairy, complete with tutu and wand, who simply "fell down in the street".

It all happened as Jonathan Hayley was making his appearance — at precisely one second past midnight — to become Britain's first baby of 1992.

Shares rise, page 28

Major backs Lamont

Continued from page 1
such a step would be ill advised and could force up base rates. He suggested that they might be five points higher if Britain was not a member of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Independent forecasters are hastily revising downwards their growth projections for this year. The prime minister's acceptance that the chancellor's forecast of 2.25 per cent growth this year, made as recently as November's autumn statement, will not be realised will be viewed by Conservatives as confirmation that they will go into an election with few signs of an upturn and on the promise of better things to come.

Now that the prime minister and the chancellor have explicitly ruled out short-term measures to revive the economy, most Tories will be pinning their hopes on a tax-cutting budget to provide the springboard for an election victory. They will be looking for a penny off the basic rate of tax and, after Mr Major's latest hint, a big increase in the £140,000 threshold for inheritance tax.

Russia and Europe, page 2
Letters, page 13
Shares rise, page 28

Royal work increases

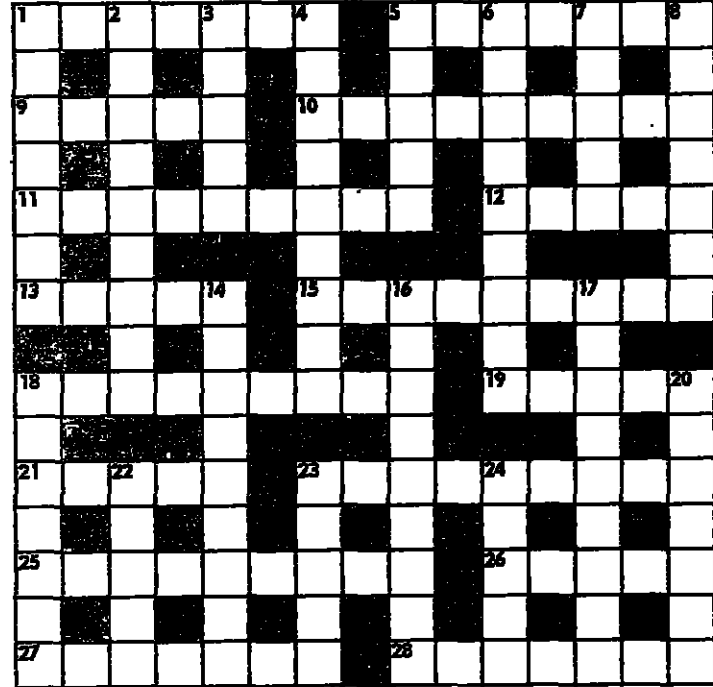
Continued from page 1
sury would have raised £7 million a year.

Although the Queen is technically unpaid, she receives £7.9 million from the Civil List. The other seven recipients receive £1.88 million a year between them. The Queen gives a return of more than £13,000 per engagement if the crude mathematical formula is applied, the Princess Royal just over £300 per engagement, Prince Edward almost £400.

The roll call of royal endeavour is the brainchild of Tim O'Donovan, aged 59, an insurance broker from Datchet, Berkshire. He spends about four hours a week combing through the royal engagements reported in *The Times* Court Circular, and the itineraries of tours abroad.

So in demand from both media and public is his work that Buckingham Palace press relations staff regularly refer enquirers to him. He started clocking up the royal workload in 1979.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,804



- ACROSS**
- 1 Pre-eminent quarter in shopping precinct (7).
 - 2 Vegetation barely used for concealment (3-4).
 - 3 Gains on new cereal products (5).
 - 4 Cloth turned back in jolly spread (9).
 - 5 In France she serves in motorway eating place (9).
 - 6 Two mysterious following (2,3).
 - 7 It's unbecoming to be lost in a Welsh town (5).
 - 8 Young runner in Derby — or an alternative (6,3).
 - 9 Awful old places caved in (9).
 - 10 Spray from water source not new (5).
 - 11 Primate possibly getting little cash in retirement (5).
 - 12 Celebrated directors? That's right (9).
 - 13 Railwaymen prepared, we hear, to hold points for tender (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,803

FOULSCAP ODDOWN
I F H B R I O
D I F F E R E N C E G O O P
D E B T Y E T M
L A R G E T H A N I F E
B E T W E E N G I A N G A Y
S W I M M I N G P O O L
U A C A R R E R R
T H R E E D L I N D I M I C E
C Y C L E V R T I
L O G O H O M E C O M I N G
M O A O L N H
P E A N U T I N F I G H T

- DOWN**
- 1 Ketch, say, with crew below dock (7).
 - 2 Put cover over bar as security precaution (5-4).
 - 3 Some places sentimentalized in Germany (5).
 - 4 Expert manipulator personally trained beginners cutting hair — could have been Delilah! (9).
 - 5 Strong point right among enemy (5).
 - 6 Banks requiring stamp in permits (9).
 - 7 She wrote elevated work upholding English (5).
 - 8 Mini overturned in clash in main thoroughfare (7).
 - 9 Superior decoration ambassador put on residence (4-5).
 - 10 Hardened crook detected at the outset could be so apprehended (3-6).
 - 11 Equipped with Marine attachments, as warships might be (9).
 - 12 A case for the Council (7).
 - 13 Unexpected gift of object to support gallery (7).
 - 14 "Costly" his habit as thy — can buy (Hamlet) (5).
 - 15 It's an uncommon colour (5).
 - 16 Elementary scholar thus maintained (5).

Concise Crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- BOLIDE**
a. A red dye
b. An intercalary day
c. A large meteor
- TORII**
a. Roman ball-fighters
b. A Shinto temple gateway
c. Tropical goldfish
- POSTEEN**
a. A Welsh home-made whiskey
b. Greatest trade from sheepskin
c. A pot lankard
- SCIAMACHY**
a. Useless fighting
b. A type of curdles
c. Rule by religious leaders

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C London (within N & S Circs) 731
M-ways/roads M4-A1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23 734
M25 London Orbital only 735
National 736

National
East Angles 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Angles 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER
Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times, but there may be clearer spells in the far north this afternoon and this evening. Wales and western England will be cloudy with light rain or drizzle, mainly on coasts and hills. Further east, brighter spells are likely. All areas will be windy, with gales in the north and the west, but it will still feel mild. Outlook: turning colder in the north. Most areas will see some rain.

RENOIR

MIDDAY: l-h: drizzle, drizzle, fog; fog; sun; s: clear; s: snow; l: rain; c: cloud; r: rain

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49

WEATHER
Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times, but there may be clearer spells in the far north this afternoon and this evening. Wales and western England will be cloudy with light rain or drizzle, mainly on coasts and hills. Further east, brighter spells are likely. All areas will be windy, with gales in the north and the west, but it will still feel mild. Outlook: turning colder in the north. Most areas will see some rain.

RENOIR

MIDDAY: l-h: drizzle, drizzle, fog; fog; sun; s: clear; s: snow; l: rain; c: cloud; r: rain

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49

WEATHER
Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times, but there may be clearer spells in the far north this afternoon and this evening. Wales and western England will be cloudy with light rain or drizzle, mainly on coasts and hills. Further east, brighter spells are likely. All areas will be windy, with gales in the north and the west, but it will still feel mild. Outlook: turning colder in the north. Most areas will see some rain.

RENOIR

MIDDAY: l-h: drizzle, drizzle, fog; fog; sun; s: clear; s: snow; l: rain; c: cloud; r: rain

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49

WEATHER
Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times, but there may be clearer spells in the far north this afternoon and this evening. Wales and western England will be cloudy with light rain or drizzle, mainly on coasts and hills. Further east, brighter spells are likely. All areas will be windy, with gales in the north and the west, but it will still feel mild. Outlook: turning colder in the north. Most areas will see some rain.

RENOIR

MIDDAY: l-h: drizzle, drizzle, fog; fog; sun; s: clear; s: snow; l: rain; c: cloud; r: rain

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0
Amman	15	SE 5	5	0

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49
Belgium	Bank	2.49

Bailey t

ing chan

Leeds United take over at top of first division as championship rivals suffer their heaviest home defeat for 14 years

Bailey treble halts shabby United

Manchester United 1
Queen's Park Rangers 4

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ALEX Ferguson, worried that Manchester United might lose concentration in between the three meetings with Leeds United, yesterday watched his worst fears realised.

A pitifully shabby impersonation of the side which had surged to the top of the first division table, they left Old Trafford surrounded by the jeers they had earned during their heaviest defeat at home for 14 years.

There could be no excuses. The lone exception amid the listlessness and carelessness was Mark Hughes. Lively and alert, he at least gave the impression that he had not indulged in excesses the night before. The rest did.

Not Queen's Park Rangers, though. Eager from the start, they took an early two-goal lead and might have added two or three more before assuring themselves of being the first visitors to win at Old Trafford since Everton in March last year.

Ferguson, United's manager, made no attempt to disguise his side's deficiencies. "We never started," he said. "It was like a nightmare. We were totally out-played. But I am sure that this will be a one-off."

United were aware that they had to win to regain the leadership from Leeds, who had won earlier at West Ham. In an attempt to refresh his line-up, Ferguson introduced Lee Sharpe after an absence of seven months and rested Ryan Giggs. Andrei Kanchelskis, a victim of influenza, was replaced by Mike Phelan.

Previously beaten only once this season, United opened as though in a collective daze. As though strolling around in the heady air of complacency. The most resilient defence in the first division immediately disintegrated and was pierced twice within five minutes with an ease which defied belief.

Clayton Blackmore, who



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds Utd	24	19	10	1	42	18	48
Sheff Wed	22	14	6	2	43	18	46
Sheff Utd	22	11	7	4	37	24	43
Manchester C	24	11	7	6	33	29	40
Liverpool	23	9	11	3	27	19	38
Aston Villa	22	11	5	6	24	28	36

had been brought in to cover for the injured Dennis Irwin, was especially to blame for the alarming lack of discipline which spread among his colleagues. Together, they offered Peter Schmeichel flimsy protection.

Rangers, resurgent since the return of Ray Wilkins, had built sufficient belief during their own unbeaten sequence of half a dozen games that they readily accepted United's wide spread invitations. Dennis Bailey, especially, profited from the unexpected generosity and helped himself to three of his side's four goals.

The first, scored in the fourth minute with startling simplicity, epitomised the ragged nature of United's rearguard. With Blackmore providing no more than a token gesture of a tackle, Ray Wegerle was allowed to drift down the right flank before rolling the ball to Barker. He nudged it in turn on to the equally unguarded Sinton, who swept it in at his own convenience.

Sinton created the second a minute later, when Blackmore again was at fault. Drawn across from his left back position, he merely accompanied Bailey into the area and failed to prevent him from unleashing a shot.

United, having started at the pace of a snail in the first half, could do nothing to raise their challenge and a crowd of 38,534, which had been uncharacteristically subdued before the kick-off, was reduced to virtual silence.

Groans were heard, though, when Holloway's drive narrowly evaded a bar, and particularly when Bailey,



Road block: Whyte, left, beats away a close-range shot by Small, of West Ham, at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

running on alone to a lob hoisted by Peacock, lobbed equally narrowly over the bar.

United, so apathetic that they had raised not a single strike before the interval, at least awoke momentarily after it. Yet after attempts from Hughes and Blackmore had endangered Stejskal for the first time, Rangers resumed their more effective counterattacks. In the 58th minute, seconds after Schmeichel had swooped on Sinton's menacing drive, he was beaten again.

Sinton's through ball was once more permitted by the distracted Bruce, who celebrated his 31st birthday on New Year's Eve, to run to Bailey.

His job was precise and United were then in danger of not so much severe embarrassment as profound humiliation.

McClair lifted their spirits, first with an effort which was disallowed and then with a legitimate strike in the 82nd minute.

Hughes, battling typically to gain possession from 'Giggs' corner, provided the opening for him but Rangers soon restored their advantage.

Sinton, given the freedom of the left flank, ran on before striking the foot of the distant post. Bailey, with no one near, simply tapped in the rebound for his tenth goal of the season.

His striking partner, Wegerle, spared United further indignity by scooping over an equally glaring opportunity in the final minute.

West Ham United 1
Leeds United 4

BY CLIVE WHITE

EXUDING the kind of professionalism that has been their hallmark since the Sixties, Leeds United summoned the strength and savvy — on a day when Howard Wilkinson, their manager, freely admitted that "something was missing" — to overtake Manchester United at Upton Park in their unending duel for the championship.

That professionalism is no longer of the negative kind that made Leeds few friends on their last visit to the east London football academy two seasons ago but of a confident, positive nature that threatens to push United all the way to the finish.

"I don't know whether it's tongue out or thumbing the nose at those who were critical of us that day," Wilkinson said. "But we've done very well in those two years and I am satisfied to be top of the table."

For that, Leeds were indebted to the impeccable goalkeeping of John Lukic, the predatory instinct of Lee Chapman, who pounced for two goals, and a sweet, sweet strike from Gary McAllister — such a commanding figure in the midst of a beautifully balanced midfield.

It would have been so easy for Leeds to have dropped their guard against struggling West Ham and it was commendable, of them, too, that they managed to pull off a victory in the face of what Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, considered was his team's most spirited performance of late.

There have not been too many of those during a run in which they have gathered just one point in a possible 21 to find themselves well and truly entrenched in the relegation mire.

West Ham's defensive vulnerability was there for all to see after just 11 minutes when, having wrecklessly conceded a free kick, courtesy of Dicks' wild tackle on Wallace, they failed lamentably to pick up players at either end of the free kick.

Strachan and McAllister were permitted to work an overlap and, from the latter's cross, Chapman headed in off a post.

Had this been earlier in the season, when referees were exercising the Fila edict on professional fouls, Leeds might have surrendered more than their lead in the 23rd minute.

Dorigo, having outpaced Keen from a through ball from McAvennie, under hit his backpass to Lukic and then deliberately pushed the West Ham player to prevent

him from gaining an advantage.

Ron Groves, the referee, chose not to book the England player but appeased the West Ham supporters with a penalty award, from which Dicks scored emphatically.

The first of several breathtaking saves by Lukic kept Leeds deservedly in the game, as he palmed away a vicious, swerving drive by Bishop, before McAllister strode on to a headed pass by Chapman to strike a shot of stunning velocity with effortless timing past Miklosko.

Lukic frustrated the opposition when tipping over the

crossbar a dangerously mis-hit downward header from Small, and saving at point-blank range in quick succession from Bishop and Breacker, but, with five minutes remaining, Chapman assured Leeds of their victory when he sidefooted home a cross from Wallace at the far post for his eleventh goal of the season.

WEST HAM UNITED: L. Miklosko; T. Breacker, J. Dicks, A. Dale, S. Potts, M. Thomas, J. Bishop, F. McAvennie, M. Small (sub: A. Morley), K. Keen, S. Slater.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lukic; M. Strachan, A. Dorigo, D. Bailey, G. Fairclough, G. Whyte, G. Strachan, Rodney Wallace, L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed.

Referee: R. Groves.

Luton's climb gathers pace

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

LUTON Town's festive revival continued with a 1-1 draw away to Nottingham Forest yesterday, giving them seven points from three games and lifting them out of the bottom three in the first division.

David Pleat, the Luton manager, must have been counting on a maximum nine points — after previous wins over Chelsea and Arsenal — with a minute remaining at the City Ground.

Pembroke had given his side the lead after 33 seconds, earning himself a magnum of champagne for the quickest new year goal, but Walker, the Nottingham Forest and England central defender, popped up with a sparkling goal, too, in the last minute — his first for the club in over 300 appearances. So pleased was his manager, Brian Clough, that he planned a kiss on Walker's cheek at the end.

There was no joy for Southampton. Now bottom of the table, despite an unexpected 3-3 draw against Leeds United on Boxing day, they slipped to their sixth defeat at The Dell this season, 2-1 against Everton.

An 89th-minute goal by Adams was scant consolation after Ward and Beardsley had given Everton the lead midway through the second half.

Aston Villa's aspirations of challenging Leeds and Manchester United at the top — always little more than a pipedream — was again exposed in a 2-1 defeat at Norwich.

Although buoyant after Christmas wins over West Ham and Southampton, and further inspired by Regis's equaliser cancelling out Fleck's twice-taken penalty, Aston Villa bowed to a 78th-minute winner from Ullathorne.

Crystal Palace will feel a good deal happier. After mediocre 1-1 away draws with Wimbledon and Sheffield United, Gabbadiini pounced in the seventh minute to clinch a 1-0 victory over Notts County, who are still hovering on the brink of a swift return to the second division.

Rovers return, page 20
Cavalier Oldham, page 21

At Old Trafford.		Att: 38,554.		Ref: K Barratt	
HT: 0-2. MAN UTD 1		OPR 4			
Scorers: McClair 82		Sinton 3		Bailey 5, 58, 86	
Bookings: Ince 51					
Subs: Giggs 53 (Phelan)					
		MAN UTD		OPR	
Shots (on target/total)		2 9 6 13			
Corners (left/right)		2 5 1 1			
Crosses (left/right)		7 18 9 20			
Free kicks/pens. against		14 2 18 3			
Offsides		2 2 2 3			
Possession (gained/lost)		28 84 29 83			
MANCHESTER UTD (4-4-2)		OPR (4-4-2)			
Goal attempt L R By On		Goal attempt L R By On		Fouls By On	
P Schmeichel 1 1 1 1		J Straker 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
P Parker 1 1 1 1		A Grayley 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
C Blackmore 2 1 1 3		C Williams 1 2 1 1		1 1 1 1	
S Bruce 1 1 1 1		D Pascoe 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
A Ward 1 1 1 1		A McDonald 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
G Pallas 1 1 1 1		J Holloway 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
M Phelan 1 1 1 1		S Gedge 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
B McClair 2 1 1 4		D Bailey 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
N Hughes 1 1 1 1		R Wiegman 2 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
L Sharpe 1 1 1 1		A Sinton 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1	
R Giggs 1 1 1 1		Unused: G Parris, A Tison			
Unused: M Donaghy					
DESPITE United enjoying a 7-2 advantage in corners, they only managed two shots on-target.		They committed 18 fouls: to Manchester's 13 but the served to highlight superiority in the competitiveness rather than any dirty play. Compiled by Julian Desborough			
Reigning on the other hand, converted four of their six on-target shots and had 13 attempts in total.					

Catering changes will cheer racegoers

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

RACEGOERS at Royal Windsor and Cheltenham received a very welcome and unexpected 1992 pick-me-up yesterday when one of Britain's largest racecourse caterers announced price cuts of up to 30 per cent across the board.

The surprise decision by Lethby and Christopher to reduce the cost of food and drink ranging from sandwiches to champagne will apply at the 14 courses where the Wokingham based company operates, including Ascot, Newmarket, Chester and Aintree.

The reductions, combined with a pledge to improve quality, comes after years of criticism about the standard of racecourse food, especially from regulars in Tattersalls and the Silver Ring. A survey conducted by the Racecourse

Association last year disclosed that only a third of punters were pleased with the cuisine on offer at Britain's 59 tracks.

Tim Stonhill, Lethby and Christopher's area operations manager, said at Windsor yesterday: "We accept that racecourse catering has not always been as good as it should have been and we have been slammed for it in the past. We are not going to be slammed for it in future."

He added: "We have spent three to five years concentrating on hospitality and corporate boxes which we think we have got right, but our minds have not been on the prime core of the business, which is the general public. Public catering is 20 per cent of our business but creates 90 per cent of our problems. The way forward for 1992 is value for money, quality and service."

The caterers have left nothing to chance in improving basic snacks, including sandwiches. Stonhill explained:

"The benchmark in sandwiches is provided by Marks and Spencer.

"We bought 400 from various stores and took them to bits to analyse what was inside. We looked to see how much butter they used, whether the mayonnaise was real and so on. Our people are now making sandwiches to that benchmark, so the quality has improved."

The most expensive sandwiches now cost £2, a reduc-



Stonhill: frank action

tion of 80p, while the cheapest are £1.15p less than the old prices. The price cuts will cost Lethby and Christopher £250,000. Their profits of £650,000 last year came from racecourse catering turnover of £20 million.

Tea is staying at the same price while coffee is being increased by 5p but the quantity is increasing by 50 per cent and better cups are being used.

The price of hot savoury pies is being reduced by 20 per cent and branded makes are being offered instead of poorer quality products. Danish pastries and doughnuts are larger but cost 50p compared to 80p.

Cans of beer, lager, cider and Guinness cost about 25p less each while Lanson Black Label and Mumm Cordon Rouge champagne are about £2 a bottle cheaper. Beefburgers and steak sandwiches are also costing less. Caterers who hold concessions from Lethby and Christopher have also agreed

to reduce their prices.

The reduction in tariffs has not come before time and coincides with the effects of the recession on the punters' pocket. Nevertheless, it is a courageous move by such a large company to admit it has not been giving the consumer value for money and to take active steps to try to improve the deal on offer.

"If we didn't do something to help punters on racecourses we faced going down the slippery slope. Not just us, but everyone involved with racing."

"By dropping our prices, improving quality and service, we hope to please existing racecourse customers and attract new ones, thereby increasing the volume of our sales," Stonhill added.

Meanwhile, Royal Windsor announced yesterday that it was spending £400,000 on building 12 private viewing boxes.

Mellor triumph, page 22
Racing results, page 23

IT MUST BE TIME FOR THE ALFRED DUNHILL SALE.



dunhill

Visit Alfred Dunhill at 30 Duke Street, St James's, Burlington Arcade and Sloane Street.

YACHTING

New round Britain race to test the best

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THIRTY skippers, including Robin Knox-Johnston, will contest a new round Britain race for fully crewed yachts, which is due to start from Cowes on August 8.

The race, organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) and sponsored by Teeside Development Corporation, is the first such event since 1976, when Knox-Johnston was in the crew aboard Alan Morgan's record-setting yacht, *More Opposition*.

Her average speed for the 1,860-mile voyage was a modest 6.82 knots, which should prove an easy hurdle to overcome for many of the larger yachts entered this year.

The former solo round the world yachtsman plans to defend the record by renewing his partnership with Bob Fisher aboard the 45ft Baracuda of Tarrant, which the pair sailed with distinction in the last two-man round Britain race four years ago.

The course takes the fleet out into the Western Approaches on a 340-mile leg to Cork in Ireland, where crews take a compulsory break before embarking on the 830-mile second stage to Lerwick. The fleet then sails 330 miles

south to Hartlepool, with a final 360-mile stage back to Cowes.

The Hartlepool Renaissance race is open to Channel handicap and IMS-measured yachts as well as waterballasted Whitbread and BOC racers, which will compete in a separate class. Records apart, competing crews have the added incentive of £500 travel grants from the organisers to cover crew changes at the three ports.

□ The disappointing entry for the Southern Cross Cup series in Australia last week has led the RORC to reconsider its choice of classes for the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup series in 1993.

The RORC announced last month that they would retain the One Ton, Two Ton and 50ft classes for the British series but, at the London Boat Show yesterday, Alan Green, the club's race director, warned that it could change if owners fail to confirm their entries in sufficient numbers by the end of March. "We are looking for a minimum of ten three-boat teams," he said. □ The Royal Yachting Association is to continue funding the national match-race championships after failing to tempt a sponsor to back the series.

Australia edge ahead

Sydney: Australia took a two-point lead over Ireland at the end of the first leg of the four-race World Cup of Ocean Racing series, organisers said yesterday.

Australia have 101 points after the opening leg which combined the Southern Cross Cup and Asia Pacific Championships, finishing with this week's Sydney-Hobart race.

The Irish claimed handicap honours on Monday in

the Sydney-Hobart race when Atara, skippered by Harold Cudmore, gave Ireland's three-boat team the Southern Cross Cup.

However, World Cup points are decided on individual yacht results and the combined Australian three-boat fleet managed to take overall lead. Behind the two leading nations are New Zealand on 98 points and France on 97. (Reuters)

MOTOR RALLYING

Rally escorted after attacks

N'Djamena, Chad: Competitors and organisers of the Paris-Cape Town rally travelled in convoy under military escort here yesterday after reported guerrilla attacks forced the cancellation of the daily stage.

The 250 cars, trucks and motorcycles still competing in the three-week endurance event drove across a 360-mile route from N'Guigmi, Niger, to N'Djamena, the capital of Chad.

Idriss Deby, the Chad president, said on Tuesday that his armed forces were confronting attackers who had invaded western Chad earlier in the day. The announcement followed reports of clashes in the area last week between government troops and rebels loyal to Hissene Habre, the former president overthrown by Deby a year ago.

"We've dealt with the mud and the sand storms. Now, we're facing a tense political situation," Gilbert Sabine, the rally director, told competitors.

At dawn yesterday, Sabine flew by helicopter to the Niger-Chad border to ensure that a military escort was awaiting the rally.

The escort was provided by Chad army units while French warplanes, stationed in Chad, conducted surveillance flights.

The Paris-Cape Town rally, which began on December 23, passes through ten African nations before ending on January 16. It is the successor to the Paris-Dakar rally, which began in 1979.

The Chad unrest is not the first trouble to befall the race. Sand storms have followed the competitors for several days and, last week, a pilot and mechanic were killed in a crash in Libya. (AP)

and the sand storms. Now, we're facing a tense political situation," Gilbert Sabine, the rally director, told competitors.

At dawn yesterday, Sabine flew by helicopter to the Niger-Chad border to ensure that a military escort was awaiting the rally.

The escort was provided by Chad army units while French warplanes, stationed in Chad, conducted surveillance flights.

The Paris-Cape Town rally, which began on December 23, passes through ten African nations before ending on January 16. It is the successor to the Paris-Dakar rally, which began in 1979.

The Chad unrest is not the first trouble to befall the race. Sand storms have followed the competitors for several days and, last week, a pilot and mechanic were killed in a crash in Libya. (AP)



Managing an armful: Terry Dolan, the Hull manager, taking training before the cup tie with Chelsea

Dolan looks on bright side

By IAN ROSS

TERRY Dolan is a manager who believes that "something will turn up". As the man in charge of Hull City, he has seen his side slip into a position of some discomfort towards the bottom of the third division in the last few weeks. Yet he remains optimistic. Like a number of other managers of clubs from the lower echelons of the Football League, he views Saturday's FA Cup third round as a possible gateway to better things.

Hull entertain Chelsea, the first division, on Saturday. It is a match which Dolan believes could have a profound effect on his side's inconsistent season should they win. For while Chelsea have a team of superior technique, it is also one that has displayed a cautious disregard for its own safety in cup football in recent years.

"We are in the middle of a bad spell, and so are Chelsea, so anything at all could happen," Dolan said. "Who knows, it could end up 6-5 to either side. It is difficult to



talk about these sort of ties without resorting to clichés but, it has to be said, we really do not have anything to lose because, on paper at least, there is such an enormous gulf between us and them."

It may come as something of a relief to Chelsea to learn that it is highly improbable they will find themselves embroiled in a physical battle at Boothferry Park.

"To be honest, that is probably the best way to bridge the class gap when playing against opponents from a higher division," Dolan said. "But, we could not indulge in that sort of thing even if we wanted to, because we just do not have the players capable of dishoning out the physical stuff, the hard stuff."

"From what I can gather, Notts County defeated Chelsea on Boxing Day by adopt-

ing a no-holds-barred approach. That may well be the way to rattle them, but we won't be trying it. Actually, we like to play football — there's another cliché for you."

Dolan believes that Hull's recent run of poor form — yesterday's 2-2 draw at Birmingham ended a run of four consecutive League defeats — is directly attributable to the sale of Andy Payton, who joined Middlesbrough in November.

"Quite simply, he was our best player and we have not been able to replace him," he said. "Until yesterday, we have scored just four goals in seven games since he left, and won only twice, both FA Cup ties."

"When I took over at Hull, 11 months ago, I was not only fully aware of the club's financial problems but also fully aware that Payton was going to be sold to help pay off our loans and reduce our overdraft."

"We could have sold him ten times over for £500,000 but we held out for the price we wanted. I knew his time at

Hull was strictly limited, so I cannot complain. I just think that we were lucky to have a player who was so much in demand."

Not one penny of the £750,000 received for Payton has been made available to Dolan for team restructuring, nor is he likely to benefit, to any great degree, from the gate receipts which an anticipated audience of around 15,000 will generate this weekend.

"It is not easy working on a small budget but I do believe we will get by," Dolan said. "It's not all doom and gloom here by any means. I honestly believe that we were desperately unlucky to lose those four games."

"Last Saturday's League game against Reading was a case in point because we created seven really good chances but failed to take any of them."

"We haven't had any breaks at all of late but they will come. I know they will. Five minutes from the end of an FA Cup tie against Chelsea would be a good starting point."

Rovers return to the top thanks to Reid's late goal

Blackburn Rovers 2
Cambridge United 1

By LOUISE TAYLOR

BACK at the top of the second division they may be, but Blackburn looked anything but Premier League material at Ewood Park yesterday.

Fortune frowned on a Cambridge side reduced to ten men when Danny O'Shea was sent off for a professional foul on David Speedie after 20 minutes.

Many referees may have reached for the yellow rather than red card when the defender tugged Speedie's shirt after the Scot had advised back pass from Chapple in the 87th minute fell at Reid's feet and he put the ball beyond Baillie's grasp.

The entire Cambridge team cost less than £250,000 but, for 90 per cent of the 90 minutes, they outran, out-tackled and out-thought Rovers. Long it may have been, but their passing was also more accurate, the result making a mockery of their dominance.

The performance also served to pour scorn on the critics who have heaped derision on John Beck's team. Over-physical and one-dimensional they undoubtedly can be, but in Taylor and Baillie, Cambridge unarguably boasted the best two individuals on the park, and had O'Shea stayed on, it would surely have been a vastly different story. This reality was not lost on Dalglish who readily conceded: "They played far better than us."

Blackburn Rovers: R. Morris; R. Smith, G. Cowdrey, M. Allen, D. Spence, M. Newell, K. Hill, C. Chapple, J. Vaughan, A. Farnham, A. Kinloch, C. Bailey, P. Chapple, O'Shea, G. Powell (sub: M. Heathcote), R. Williams, D. Duffin (sub: A. Daniels), J. Taylor, L. Phipps. Referee: P. Vaneas.

Blackburn appeared poised to drop their first home points under Dalglish's management, but an ill-considered back pass from Chapple in the 87th minute fell at Reid's feet and he put the ball beyond Baillie's grasp.

The entire Cambridge team cost less than £250,000 but, for 90 per cent of the 90 minutes, they outran, out-tackled and out-thought Rovers. Long it may have been, but their passing was also more accurate, the result making a mockery of their dominance.

The performance also served to pour scorn on the critics who have heaped derision on John Beck's team. Over-physical and one-dimensional they undoubtedly can be, but in Taylor and Baillie, Cambridge unarguably boasted the best two individuals on the park, and had O'Shea stayed on, it would surely have been a vastly different story. This reality was not lost on Dalglish who readily conceded: "They played far better than us."

Blackburn Rovers: R. Morris; R. Smith, G. Cowdrey, M. Allen, D. Spence, M. Newell, K. Hill, C. Chapple, J. Vaughan, A. Farnham, A. Kinloch, C. Bailey, P. Chapple, O'Shea, G. Powell (sub: M. Heathcote), R. Williams, D. Duffin (sub: A. Daniels), J. Taylor, L. Phipps. Referee: P. Vaneas.

Blackburn appeared poised to drop their first home points under Dalglish's management, but an ill-considered back pass from Chapple in the 87th minute fell at Reid's feet and he put the ball beyond Baillie's grasp.

The entire Cambridge team cost less than £250,000 but, for 90 per cent of the 90 minutes, they outran, out-tackled and out-thought Rovers. Long it may have been, but their passing was also more accurate, the result making a mockery of their dominance.

The performance also served to pour scorn on the critics who have heaped derision on John Beck's team. Over-physical and one-dimensional they undoubtedly can be, but in Taylor and Baillie, Cambridge unarguably boasted the best two individuals on the park, and had O'Shea stayed on, it would surely have been a vastly different story. This reality was not lost on Dalglish who readily conceded: "They played far better than us."

Blackburn Rovers: R. Morris; R. Smith, G. Cowdrey, M. Allen, D. Spence, M. Newell, K. Hill, C. Chapple, J. Vaughan, A. Farnham, A. Kinloch, C. Bailey, P. Chapple, O'Shea, G. Powell (sub: M. Heathcote), R. Williams, D. Duffin (sub: A. Daniels), J. Taylor, L. Phipps. Referee: P. Vaneas.

Blackburn appeared poised to drop their first home points under Dalglish's management, but an ill-considered back pass from Chapple in the 87th minute fell at Reid's feet and he put the ball beyond Baillie's grasp.

The entire Cambridge team cost less than £250,000 but, for 90 per cent of the 90 minutes, they outran, out-tackled and out-thought Rovers. Long it may have been, but their passing was also more accurate, the result making a mockery of their dominance.

The performance also served to pour scorn on the critics who have heaped derision on John Beck's team. Over-physical and one-dimensional they undoubtedly can be, but in Taylor and Baillie, Cambridge unarguably boasted the best two individuals on the park, and had O'Shea stayed on, it would surely have been a vastly different story. This reality was not lost on Dalglish who readily conceded: "They played far better than us."

Blackburn Rovers: R. Morris; R. Smith, G. Cowdrey, M. Allen, D. Spence, M. Newell, K. Hill, C. Chapple, J. Vaughan, A. Farnham, A. Kinloch, C. Bailey, P. Chapple, O'Shea, G. Powell (sub: M. Heathcote), R. Williams, D. Duffin (sub: A. Daniels), J. Taylor, L. Phipps. Referee: P. Vaneas.

Blackburn appeared poised to drop their first home points under Dalglish's management, but an ill-considered back pass from Chapple in the 87th minute fell at Reid's feet and he put the ball beyond Baillie's grasp.

The entire Cambridge team cost less than £250,000 but, for 90 per cent of the 90 minutes, they outran, out-tackled and out-thought Rovers. Long it may have been, but their passing was also more accurate, the result making a mockery of their dominance.

The performance also served to pour scorn on the critics who have heaped derision on John Beck's team. Over-physical and one-dimensional they undoubtedly can be, but in Taylor and Baillie, Cambridge unarguably boasted the best two individuals on the park, and had O'Shea stayed on, it would surely have been a vastly different story. This reality was not lost on Dalglish who readily conceded: "They played far better than us."

Blackburn Rovers: R. Morris; R. Smith, G. Cowdrey, M. Allen, D. Spence, M. Newell, K. Hill, C. Chapple, J. Vaughan, A. Farnham, A. Kinloch, C. Bailey, P. Chapple, O'Shea, G. Powell (sub: M. Heathcote), R. Williams, D. Duffin (sub: A. Daniels), J. Taylor, L. Phipps. Referee: P. Vaneas.

Blackburn appeared poised to drop their first home points under Dalglish's management, but an ill-considered back pass from Chapple in the 87th minute fell at Reid's feet and he put the ball beyond Baillie's grasp.

The entire Cambridge team cost less than £250,000 but, for 90 per cent of the 90 minutes, they outran, out-tackled and out-thought Rovers. Long it may have been, but their passing was also more accurate, the result making a mockery of their dominance.

The performance also served to pour scorn on the critics who have heaped derision on John Beck's team. Over-physical and one-dimensional they undoubtedly can be, but in Taylor and Baillie, Cambridge unarguably boasted the best two individuals on the park, and had O'Shea stayed on, it would surely have been a vastly different story. This reality was not lost on Dalglish who readily conceded: "They played far better than us."

Blackburn Rovers: R. Morris; R. Smith, G. Cowdrey, M. Allen, D. Spence, M. Newell, K. Hill, C. Chapple, J. Vaughan, A. Farnham, A. Kinloch, C. Bailey, P. Chapple, O'Shea, G. Powell (sub: M. Heathcote), R. Williams, D. Duffin (sub: A. Daniels), J. Taylor, L. Phipps. Referee: P. Vaneas.

Rangers show champions' style

Celtic 1
Rangers 3

By RODDY FORSYTH

WHILE Celtic may claim to be unfortunate at the outcome, Rangers confirmed at Parkhead yesterday that they possess the prime attribute of champions: the ability to reap points without playing at peak form.

Paul McStay, of Celtic, was the outstanding player on display in a fiercely-contested game. Other expensively-rated individuals struggled in the same department. Mikhailichenko and McCall, to take the most obvious examples, were confounded by the pace of the contest and had to be replaced.

Gordon was similarly bemused for lengthy spells by McStay, whose pedigree includes seven of the seasonal Old Firm rituals, orchestrated

such persistent menace from midfield that for half of the contest it was easy to believe that Celtic were about to do the rest of the first division a favour and disrupt the champions' ominous run of victories.

Yet it was Rangers who set the agenda, with a racing start which muted the raucous home support. A job from McCoist and header by Hateley, both unchallenged and both narrowly off target, indicated that the Celtic defenders were in typically hesitant mood.

Matters were not helped when Marshall dropped Mikhailichenko's corner kick and McNally was very lucky to get away with handling a McCoist shot on the goal line.

Afterwards it was suggested in the dressing rooms that the referee had judged the offence to be unintentional, but in fact, Mr Smith was unsighted and looked to his

linesman for clarification for the incident, but his colleague was similarly ill-placed to see. This was the cue for McStay to reverse the flow of play and set up fine opportunities for Coyne and Cascarino, but with half-time imminent and Celtic in charge, Rangers delivered the sucker punch.

Spackman emerged forceful from tackles by Grant and Whyte and released Gordon who, grateful at last to be allowed a channel free of lunging bodies, found Hateley. The Englishman played a diagonal ball to the far post where McCoist trimmed his shot beyond Marshall.

Celtic replied just the other side of half-time, Gough's stumble forcing Rangers to concede a corner on the right. Mowbray met the kick with a header of javelin force to bewilder Gordon.

With the contest finely balanced, McStay was told by

the referee to leave the field to attend to a bleeding face wound, and in his temporary absence, Rangers turned the screw a notch.

Marshall made a remarkable save from Huistra but was again exposed when McCoist burst free. He dived at the Rangers forward's feet but on rolling over he caught McCoist and a penalty was awarded from which Hateley, conspicuously casual, scored.

After a breath-taking save by Gordon from McStay, it was less than Celtic deserved when Brown was permitted to advance unhindered to drive a third goal for Rangers off the base of Marshall's left hand post.

CELTIC: G. Marshall, C. Morris, M. McCall, P. Smith, T. McStay, D. Whyte, M. Gough, P. Whyte, T. Coyne (sub: G. Creevey), A. Cascarino, J. Grant, C. Grant, G. Stevens, D. Robertson, G. Gough, N. Spackman, O. Kuznetsov, D. Gordon, J. McCall (sub: J. Brown), A. McCoist, M. Hateley, A. Mikhailichenko (sub: P. Hatcher), Referee: G. Smith.

After a breath-taking save by Gordon from McStay, it was less than Celtic deserved when Brown was permitted to advance unhindered to drive a third goal for Rangers off the base of Marshall's left hand post.

CELTIC: G. Marshall, C. Morris, M. McCall, P. Smith, T. McStay, D. Whyte, M. Gough, P. Whyte, T. Coyne (sub: G. Creevey), A. Cascarino, J. Grant, C. Grant, G. Stevens, D. Robertson, G. Gough, N. Spackman, O. Kuznetsov, D. Gordon, J. McCall (sub: J. Brown), A. McCoist, M. Hateley, A. Mikhailichenko (sub: P. Hatcher), Referee: G. Smith.

After a breath-taking save by Gordon from McStay, it was less than Celtic deserved when Brown was permitted to advance unhindered to drive a third goal for Rangers off the base of Marshall's left hand post.

CELTIC: G. Marshall, C. Morris, M. McCall, P. Smith, T. McStay, D. Whyte, M. Gough, P. Whyte, T. Coyne (sub: G. Creevey), A. Cascarino, J. Grant, C. Grant, G. Stevens, D. Robertson, G. Gough, N. Spackman, O. Kuznetsov, D. Gordon, J. McCall (sub: J. Brown), A. McCoist, M. Hateley, A. Mikhailichenko (sub: P. Hatcher), Referee: G. Smith.

After a breath-taking save by Gordon from McStay, it was less than Celtic deserved when Brown was permitted to advance unhindered to drive a third goal for Rangers off the base of Marshall's left hand post.

CELTIC: G. Marshall, C. Morris, M. McCall, P. Smith, T. McStay, D. Whyte, M. Gough, P. Whyte, T. Coyne (sub: G. Creevey), A. Cascarino, J. Grant, C. Grant, G. Stevens, D. Robertson, G. Gough, N. Spackman, O. Kuznetsov, D. Gordon, J. McCall (sub: J. Brown), A. McCoist, M. Hateley, A. Mikhailichenko (sub: P. Hatcher), Referee: G. Smith.

After a breath-taking save by Gordon from McStay, it was less than Celtic deserved when Brown was permitted to advance unhindered to drive a third goal for Rangers off the base of Marshall's left hand post.

CELTIC: G. Marshall, C. Morris, M. McCall, P. Smith, T. McStay, D. Whyte, M. Gough, P. Whyte, T. Coyne (sub: G. Creevey), A. Cascarino, J. Grant, C. Grant, G. Stevens, D. Robertson, G. Gough, N. Spackman, O. Kuznetsov, D. Gordon, J. McCall (sub: J. Brown), A. McCoist, M. Hateley, A. Mikhailichenko (sub: P. Hatcher), Referee: G. Smith.

After a breath-taking save by Gordon from McStay, it was less than Celtic deserved when Brown was permitted to advance unhindered to drive a third goal for Rangers off the base of Marshall's left hand post.

CELTIC: G. Marshall, C. Morris, M. McCall, P. Smith, T. McStay, D. Whyte, M. Gough, P. Whyte, T. Coyne (sub: G. Creevey), A. Cascarino, J. Grant, C. Grant, G. Stevens, D. Robertson, G. Gough, N. Spackman, O. Kuznetsov, D. Gordon, J. McCall (sub: J. Brown), A. McCoist, M. Hateley, A. Mikhailichenko (sub: P. Hatcher), Referee: G. Smith.

After a breath-taking save by Gordon from McStay, it was less than Celtic deserved when Brown was permitted to advance unhindered to drive a third goal for Rangers off the base of Marshall's left hand post.

Honesty receives its due reward

Chester City 0
Huddersfield Town 0

By KATH PACE

BOTTOM of the third division, forced to make a 100-mile-plus round trip to Macclesfield for home matches, and with work on their new ground not due to start until Monday, there cannot have been many sides happier to see the back of 1991 than Chester.

Yet while there were probably no more than 1,000 Chester supporters in a crowd of 3,500 at Moss Rose yesterday, they could take heart from their performance against Huddersfield. True, they needed a fair bit of luck to hold high-flying Huddersfield to a goalless draw, but if honest endeavour deserves its reward, then Chester were worth the point.

Huddersfield, unbeaten in their previous six games, started at a furious pace, creating six openings in the first 15 minutes. Barnett going closest with a fierce angled drive inches past the far post.

But then Chester drew on the strength of character which had seen them fight back from 2-0 down to draw at Fulham on Saturday.

Chasing shadows they may have been at times, but at least the chasing never

stopped. For all their quick thinking, and nimbleness of foot in midfield, Huddersfield were disappointing where it matters most.

They nearly won the game when, in the 53rd minute, Kelly beat Stewart from 35 yards, only for his shot to rebound off the crossbar, but long before the end their much vaunted attacking force of Starbuck, Roberts and Onuora had ceased to be a real threat.

Brentford regained the leadership after their 1-0 victory over Hartlepool United. Birmingham City, held 2-2 at home by Hull City, go second, while West Bromwich Albion dropped two places to third after losing 3-2 at home to Fulham. Sean Farrell's three goals giving Fulham's new manager, Don Mackay, a splendid start.

Burnley stay top of the fourth division, a 2-0 win at Chesterfield, giving them their twelfth victory in 14 matches. Middlesbrough recorded their first away win of the season, and in some style, prevailing 5-0 at Cardiff City.

CHESTER CITY: W. Stewart, S. Wainman, A. Abbot, P. Connolly, G. Able, G. Lightfoot, N. Morton (sub: B. Croft), S. Pinner, G. Bennett. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: T. Clarke, G. Twell, S. Charlton, J. Kelly, G. Mitchell, P. Jackson, K. O'Brien, C. Onuora, I. Roberts (sub: M. Wright), P. Starbuck, G. Barnett (sub: A. Walsh). Referee: M. Broadwood.

Brentford regained the leadership after their 1-0 victory over Hartlepool United. Birmingham City, held 2-2 at home by Hull City, go second, while West Bromwich Albion dropped two places to third after losing 3-2 at home to Fulham. Sean Farrell's three goals giving Fulham's new manager, Don Mackay, a splendid start.

Burnley stay top of the fourth division, a 2-0 win at Chesterfield, giving them their twelfth victory in 14 matches. Middlesbrough recorded their first away win of the season, and in some style, prevailing 5-0 at Cardiff City.

CHESTER CITY: W. Stewart, S. Wainman, A. Abbot, P. Connolly, G. Able, G. Lightfoot, N. Morton (sub: B. Croft), S. Pinner, G. Bennett. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: T. Clarke, G. Twell, S. Charlton, J. Kelly, G. Mitchell, P. Jackson, K. O'Brien, C. Onuora, I. Roberts (sub: M. Wright), P. Starbuck, G. Barnett (sub: A. Walsh). Referee: M. Broadwood.

Brentford regained the leadership after their 1-0 victory over Hartlepool United. Birmingham City, held 2-2 at home by Hull City, go second, while West Bromwich Albion dropped two places to third after losing 3-2 at home to Fulham. Sean Farrell's three goals giving Fulham's new manager, Don Mackay, a splendid start.

Burnley stay top of the fourth division, a 2-0 win at Chesterfield, giving them their twelfth victory in 14 matches. Middlesbrough recorded their first away win of the season, and in some style, prevailing 5-0 at Cardiff City.

CHESTER CITY: W. Stewart, S. Wainman, A. Abbot, P. Connolly, G. Able, G. Lightfoot, N. Morton (sub: B. Croft), S. Pinner, G. Bennett. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: T. Clarke, G. Twell, S. Charlton, J. Kelly, G. Mitchell, P. Jackson, K. O'Brien, C. Onuora, I. Roberts (sub: M. Wright), P. Starbuck, G. Barnett (sub: A. Walsh). Referee: M. Broadwood.

Brentford regained the leadership after their 1-0 victory over Hartlepool United. Birmingham City, held 2-2 at home by Hull City, go second, while West Bromwich Albion dropped two places to third after losing 3-2 at home to Fulham. Sean Farrell's three goals giving Fulham's new manager, Don Mackay, a splendid start.

Burnley stay top of the fourth division, a 2-0 win at Chesterfield, giving them their twelfth victory in 14 matches. Middlesbrough recorded their first away win of the season, and in some style, prevailing 5-0 at Cardiff City.

CHESTER CITY: W. Stewart, S. Wainman, A. Abbot, P. Connolly, G. Able, G. Lightfoot, N. Morton (sub: B. Croft), S. Pinner, G. Bennett. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: T. Clarke, G. Twell, S. Charlton, J. Kelly, G. Mitchell, P. Jackson, K. O'Brien, C. Onuora, I. Roberts (sub: M. Wright), P. Starbuck, G. Barnett (sub: A. Walsh). Referee: M. Broadwood.

Brentford regained the leadership after their 1-0 victory over Hartlepool United. Birmingham City, held 2-2 at home by Hull City, go second, while West Bromwich Albion dropped two places to third after losing 3-2 at home to Fulham. Sean Farrell's three goals giving Fulham's new manager, Don Mackay, a splendid start.

Burnley stay top of the fourth division, a 2-0 win at Chesterfield, giving them their twelfth victory in 14 matches. Middlesbrough recorded their first away win of the season, and in some style, prevailing 5-0 at Cardiff City.

CHESTER CITY: W. Stewart, S. Wainman, A. Abbot, P. Connolly

**THE
TIMES
PRIVATE
ADVERTISERS
TEL:
071-481 4000**

King's Curate to graduate in style

KING'S Curate, one of the best staying hurdlers in the country, can make a successful debut over fences in the John Brown Memorial Trophy at Ayr this afternoon.

Stan Mellor, his trainer, ended a long losing run with a double yesterday and King's Curate is confidently expected to add to his tally.

A progressive novice, two seasons ago, King's Curate developed into a leading long-distance hurdler last term when the highlight of his campaign was a neck victory over Run For Free in the BonusPrint Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham.

The King's Ride gelding ran an even better race on his reappearance at Ayr in November, when failing by only a neck to beat the country's top hurdler, Morley Street, at level weights.

last season. Better Times Ahead shaped well when third to Bonanza at Newcastle on Saturday and the fact that Richards runs him again so quickly is a tip in itself.

Only four turn out for the Nottingham Champion Novices' Chase at the Midlands course but, with Carbisale and Kemish Piper among them, an interesting race is in prospect. Carbisale, an easy winner of his two novice chases here and at Sedgfield, looks another winner for Mary Revely.

The price will be unattractive, though, and a better value proposition may be Maudsley, a rare National Hunt runner for Michael Jarvis in the Annesley Novices' Hurdle.

Wetherby in November and finished a creditable 20-length eighth of 17 in Good Profile in the Thorp Arch Hurdle, the best juvenile event run in the north this season.

That winner has since followed up in the valuable Final Junior Hurdle while Bolin William (third), Canny Chronicle (fifth) and Qualitative Sound (sixth) have all franked the form with subsequent victories.

Mandika, in need of the run at Wetherby after a two-month break, can now be expected to step up considerably on that performance and rates a sporting nap.

The all-weather jumping card at Lingfield should be treated with extreme caution but for those determined to invest, Briery Fille could be the answer to the Too Many Cooks Handicap Hurdle.

Fit from the all-weather Flat, Briery Fille won a handicap hurdle over today's course and distance by 20 lengths exactly 12 months ago and races off only a 2lb higher mark here.



Jarvis: rare National Hunt runner in Mandika

Winnie The Witch Trophy favourite

WINNIE The Witch, inches away from creating one of the upsets of the season, at Cheltenham on Tuesday, has been installed 9-1 favourite by the sponsors for next month's Tote Gold Trophy (Phil McLennan writes).

The weights for the coveted Newbury prize were announced yesterday but were compiled before Winnie The Witch had finished a short head second to Cab On Target in Cheltenham's Spa Hurdle.

Had Winnie The Witch prevailed in that exciting finish, Ken Bridgwater's County Hurdle winner would have incurred a 7lb penalty but the mare is now set to carry an attractive ten stone.

Newbury weights and betting

TOTE GOLD TROPHY (Handicap hurdle, 2m, 12.50 Gallant Effort, 1.20 Gobblin, 1.50 Olmsted, 2.20 Front Page, 2.50 Deeply, 3.20 Capricious Lady).

12.50 BIRD IN THE HAND HANDICAP HURDLE (1,399; 2m 6f) (12)

1 0026 GROOMSMAN 33 (C) Mrs J McKie 5-12 1/2 Mr E Bailey (7)
2 2222 HULLS 35 (F) S Shawcross 5-11-11... R Bailey (7)
3 2-40 MASTER DANCER 30 (C) J Thomson Jones 5-11-8 Mr J Holt
4 1-06 ST VILLE 63 (C) D Gussell 5-11-8 H Davies
5 1-25 LOADSOME 36 (D) Murny-Smith 5-11-5 Verling (3)
6 0000 ROWHEDGE 13 (D) F J Wren 6-11-5 C Curran (7)
7 3-40 POP DANCER 41 (F) N Thomson 10-11-4 H Davies
8 0042 MARCH ABOVE 16 (G) V Stevens 5-11-2 H Davies
9 555- CAZAUDEHORE 252 (C) M Robinson 7-11-0 H Davies
10 1-40 KILROY 28 (C) Miss P Connors 7-11-0 A Maguire
11 1-07 ART 27 (F) S Shawcross 5-11-8 A Maguire
12 3-40 OLIVETTO 17 (F) M Page 5-11-8... J Bailey (7)
13 1-14 GRUBBY 71 (F) 7-2 high... J Bailey (7)
14 March Above, 10-1 Kilroy, 12-1 Loadsome, 12-1 Olmsted, 12-1 Stevens, 12-1 Verling, 12-1 Wren.

LINGFIELD PARK

MANDARIN
12.00 Smith's Peak, 12.50 Gallant Effort, 1.20 Gobblin, 1.50 Olmsted, 2.20 Front Page, 2.50 Deeply, 3.20 Capricious Lady.

THUNDERER
12.20 Smith's Peak, 12.50 Gallant Effort, 1.20 Gobblin, 1.50 Olmsted, 2.20 Front Page, 2.50 Deeply, 3.20 Capricious Lady.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
7 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
8 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
9 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
10 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)

12.20 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1, £1,363.2m) (10 runners)

1 0030 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE 16 A Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
2 0-4 HANDSOME NEB 58 D Gussell 5-11-5 H Davies
3 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
4 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
5 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones 7-11-5 D Sullivan (3)
6 0-40 WETANDRY 75 C Jones

Stewart has early chance to show ability as captain

O McGuire, G Marchant, I Refney, D
Knapp, I Fawc.
Umpires: I Moss (Southern Counties) and
M Wyatt (Purley).

MANAGER PRESS RELATIONS

This UK company is a leading international organisation operating worldwide in aerospace, automotive and other selected markets. Its advanced technology systems, components and services are market leaders and are based on the world's best technologies.

The Company is committed to total quality and this is fully reflected in the objectives of the corporate communications team.

The role is a demanding one which reports to and deputises for the Manager, Corporate Communications who in turn reports to the Chairman/CEO. The jobholder will be the primary interface between the media and the Company; will maintain and initiate close links with national and international media; will exploit opportunities to promote the Company's aims and achievements; and will plan and develop a programme of media meetings for senior executives, liaising with the Company's PR consultants.

In addition the jobholder will develop issues banks, establish and train spokespersons, assist the marketing communications functions, attend major international exhibitions, maintain and monitor press release cuttings and biographical libraries, run a community relations programme and generally assist in the running of a busy corporate PR function.

The person will be a graduate with at least five years experience in PR for a major company or large PR agency. Other work experience is an advantage as is knowledge of the City, the national press and at least one foreign language.

This is not a job for the faint-hearted, but the rewards are beyond ordinary job satisfaction. Prospects are excellent within the Group. Salary will be in the range of £30 - 35K with car and benefits appropriate to a best practice company. Based in an attractive part of the West Midlands.

Please forward full career and salary details by Friday 24th January 1992 to box no 6705.

General Manager

Magazine Manufacturing
Watford

£40K + Incentives
Company Car

The Magazine Division of BPCC Ltd commands £100m turnover in the highly competitive web offset printing market place.

Our plant in Watford, one of the largest in the UK, specialises in high volume capital intensive printing serving the major publishing houses producing time critical weekly magazines to newspaper type schedules.

We are now looking for a General Manager to take control of our Watford site. The position requires an articulate, analytical, change orientated professional used to managing a time sensitive product in a multi-shift working environment.

Candidates will be hands on managers comfortable with both customers and shop floor interfaces and capable of initiating major performance improvements in manufacturing quality, cost and service levels.

The successful candidate will have a demonstrable track record of manufacturing success ideally in a printing or continuous process type industry.

The salary package includes a performance related incentive/equity scheme, a final salary pension scheme, company car and relocation package where appropriate.

Please write summarising your career to date in total confidence to: Kathy Woodward, Group Resourcing and Development Manager.

BPCC Magazines Ltd,

Newcomen Way, Severalls Lane,
Colchester, Essex CO4 4TJ.



DIRECTORS SEEKING A NEW ROLE?

Maximise your potential in tomorrow's employment market



Demand more than well meaning Career Counselling or Outplacement advice. Insist on real direction to your job search based on current market intelligence and interview feedback with the most advanced placement and Outplacement facilities.

Our subsidiary InterMx accesses over 6000 unadvertised vacancies annually - mostly between £40,000 and £200,000 p.a. - and makes recommendations from its approved candidate bank without charge.

Telephone Keith Mitchell on
071-930 5041 for an exploratory
meeting without obligation

Landseer House, 19 Charing Cross Road
London WC2H 0BS
Tel: 071-930 5041 Fax: 071-930 5048

INTEREXEC PLC - means much more

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

National Park Officer

The appointment of Michael Dower as Director General of the Countryside Commission leaves vacant the most challenging post in the management of Britain's National Parks.

Applications are invited for the job of National Park Officer with the Peak Park Joint Planning Board, which is the National Park Authority and unitary planning body for Britain's first National Park.

The post, leading a staff of 300 and overseeing a budget of £7 million, requires proven managerial ability and wide experience of countryside matters. It is not restricted to any one discipline, but the postholder is likely to possess a degree, or a professional or management qualification, together with at least ten years relevant experience.

Local government experience at a senior level and knowledge of the National Park system in England and Wales are desirable, but applicants who have gained relevant management experience in other fields will also be considered. The Peak Park Joint Planning Board is an equal opportunities employer.

Salary scale: £38,007 to £42,897 pa plus car allowance and relocation package.

Full details and application forms from Personnel Officer, National Park Office, Aldem House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE4 1AE (0629) 814321. The closing date for applications is 20 January 1992.



Are You On Course For Europe 1993?

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

Pera International is one of Europe's largest and most successful business and technology centres providing help and advice to thousands of companies in all sectors of industry.

Based at our Technology Centre in Melton Mowbray, our Training & Development Group offers a comprehensive range of courses to help people develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need in an increasingly challenging business and technical world.

Occupying a highly respected and successful position in the market place, we are looking to recruit professionals with expertise in the following areas:

Management and Supervision
Total Quality
Manufacturing Management
Electronics
Project Management

Your key role will be to manage a defined part of the business, involving the design and development of courses to suit the varied requirements of our clients. In addition, since you will take a leading role in our growth, you should have the ability and experience to develop new business opportunities as part of the team.

Educated to degree level, and ideally with a background in training, you should relish the prospect of working for a dynamic and progressive organisation which is expanding both in the UK and overseas.

If you are interested and feel that you meet our minimum qualifications, please write to Mike Thompson, quoting reference number 32/91. Our normal procedure is to then ask you to fill in our application form and to supply other specific details, so please don't send your CV with your original letter.

Pera International,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0PB.



Opportunity in International Management

Emesco, established in 1974 in Switzerland, specialises in International Turnaround Management - Company Restructuring - Management Consulting.

Our small multinational team of industrial managers operates on two types of projects:

Management of our own business ventures
Problem-solving for our clients for whom we act as managers for hire

Steadily expanding, with offices in Italy, Scandinavia, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland, we are looking for an experienced international industrial manager to establish a new base for Emesco in the UK. You may be facing the following constraints in your present position:

- your management position involves too much administrative work and routine. You are missing the problem-solving part of your activity
- as a senior management consultant the executive elements of management are lacking

As we insist on results, not reports, a strong entrepreneurial drive is the most important single factor.

Besides a strong academic background (e.g. degree in engineering plus an MBA) you should be fluent in English and have a good command of languages, preferably German.

Accommodation provided in Central London if required.

If you consider your qualifications to be right and if you are interested in our type of work, please write to us at the address below including a short C.V.

Please Reply to Box No 6704

ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE

Two candidates are required for the following positions.

Product Manager - Mortgages Department

Working within a busy and successful team, the key focus of this role will be to educate and develop both clients and the international sales force on the various US\$ mortgage and asset backed instruments. The ideal candidate should be educated to MBA level and possess strong systems expertise. They should also have a sound knowledge of Mortgage Backed and Asset Backed Securities as well as an in-depth knowledge of Sales/Trading and European Accounts.

Banker - Equity Capital Group

This position will involve providing advice specifically to a wide range of companies interested in accessing the International Equity Markets, and advising corporations on raising capital worldwide. The candidate will be responsible for marketing the firm's equity capabilities to our UK and European Investment Banking client base. The ideal candidate should be educated to degree level and have a minimum of 8 years capital markets experience across both US and European markets, selling European equities to European institutions combined with a US syndicate background. A working knowledge of another language will be a distinct plus.

Please send your curriculum vitae and current salary details to Box Number 6720 quoting the appropriate reference number.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

TEXTILE DESIGN ASSISTANT COLEFAX AND FOWLER LIMITED

A Textile Design Assistant is required to join our studio during February. Knowledge of traditional design is essential, plus a keen interest in the work of our company.

Salary based upon experience, four weeks holiday p.a. and staff discount.

Please write with C.V. to:
Ms J Morales
COLEFAX AND FOWLER LIMITED
39 Brook Street,
London W1Y 2JE

PART QUAL. ACCOUNTANT

experience within
banking
environment req.
Salary £19K

071
287 8372
(Agy)

SENIOR FOOD BUYING MANAGER

FAREPAK plc - A GROWTH COMPANY

Farepak is a leading UK mail order food company with major food processing activities. Capitalised at over £50m it has a consistent record of solid growth over many years. This is a major opportunity to manage the Group Buying Department of a public company with excellent prospects.

The successful applicant will report directly to the Managing Director responsible for all mail order and food processing purchases. The position requires a thorough knowledge of food purchasing with comprehensive experience in the purchase of meat and poultry products. Applicants must be ambitious and able to demonstrate strong leadership skills, a successful track record and be willing to operate within a close knit multi-disciplined team.

A salary in excess of £40,000, share options, an executive company car and a substantial benefits package is available to the right candidate. Applicants will probably be aged between 35 - 40 with at least five years solid experience in the meat, poultry and frozen food industry.

Candidates should send full personal and career details to:

Mrs J Oakes, Farepak plc, Farepak House, Westmead Drive,
Westlea, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 7YZ

All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

Farepak plc

COURSES

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CHIROPODY AS A PROFESSION?

In 1992 Chirocity offers the prospect of substantial earnings to those who obtain a professional qualification.

Since 1979 this School has successfully trained many thousands of chiropodists. Currently, public demand considerably exceeds supply, thus creating continuing pressure to qualify chiropodists in the UK and Europe.

Age is no barrier. Ideal training is in the form of a 3 year, mentored, continuing home study with supportive visits and full practical training, allowing progressive change to your personal lifestyle.

Write or phone now. For our full description of the profession and learn about the advantages and rewards of chiropody.

The School of Surgical Chiropody
THE SMAE INSTITUTE

Dept 57 The New Hall, Barr Park, Macer, Berks SL6 6LA
Tel: (0628) 21100 (outside of 32448 (hours only))



King's College London UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Intensive Language Weekend
28/29 March 1992

French, German, Greek,
Italian, Japanese,
Portuguese, Russian,
Spanish at 3 levels. Some
commercial options
available.

Continuing Education Unit
King's College London
Cornwall House Annex
Walden Road
London SE1 6TX
071-472 3855.

STRONG PITCHERS £25K-£60K OTE

Highly motivated, energetic individuals required to sell advertising in established high quality international magazines.

Applicants should be of graduate calibre with excellent communication skills and the confidence to deal with clients at director level.

Successful candidates will be coached as part of a strong team in our prestige West End offices and can expect well above average earnings.

TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW CALL
STEPHEN PARRY NOW ON 071 240 1515



UPDATE

Moths get brush off

AUSTRALIAN scientists have bred sheep that secrete insect-repellent, which will protect clothes made of their wool from moths. Oliver Mayo, a geneticist in the country's national scientific organisation, says the sheep will not need to be dipped to protect them against costly insect-borne diseases such as flystrike.

Drug starch ruse

THE latest trick used by drug smugglers is to turn cocaine into a form of starch and dip their clothes in it before going through customs. *The Miami Herald* has reported. Cocaine paste is dissolved in petrol. The clothes are soaked in the solution and allowed to dry for several weeks until the smell goes. Later the clothes are dipped in petrol again. When the cocaine rises to the surface, it is skimmed off.

Hope for hips

SURGEONS at the University of Virginia have devised a method of setting broken hip bones without the usual operation and without the patient needing weeks of rest. They use body scanners to guide them as they introduce tiny screws into a fracture, which hold the bone together until it heals. Patients typically recover within seven days.

Fusion reigns

RESEARCH at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Bombay may shed light on the cold fusion controversy. Scientists there report in the *Indian Journal of Technology* that palladium metal loaded with hydrogen or deuterium emits large amounts of low energy radiation. There is no direct evidence to suggest that the radiation is caused by cold fusion, they add, suggesting that some process connected with the lattice of the palladium atoms may be responsible.

Undersea maps

THE first maps of the entire seabed of the United States, made with the help of British scientists, show undersea landslides and a huge lava flow off Hawaii, the US Geological Survey has announced.

Stubble that farmers used to burn could have a commercial value. Mick Hurrell lists the possible new uses

Old straw goes into business



Goodbye to all that: with stubble burning now banned, Dr Bolton, right, and his colleagues at Bangor have found ways of using straw by-products in industry

reagent, these cells become water-resistant, strongly bonding super-fibres, says Dr James Bolton, the centre's director.

As its name suggests, the reagent does two jobs. One end of a molecule of the reagent, which is typically a di-isocyanate, a raw material for polyurethane, binds with the water-loving hydroxyl groups in the cells, making them water-resistant. This leaves the reagent's other active element free to bond either with other cells or with surrounding materials, forming a chemical hook.

Dr Bolton says: "Conventional wisdom says that a fibre's aspect ratio — length to diameter — is the important factor in transferring

stresses. The reality is that by the time we have finished with our fibres, we have a more reactive surface than conventional glass or carbon. So that may well change the rules.

"Our fibres have comparable strength per unit weight, are water-resistant and can readily bond to each other or to surrounding material. These fibres can be produced for half the cost of glass and nearly a fourth the price of carbon fibre."

Dr Bolton says composites made with organic fibres would be recyclable, which would be increasingly important in such industries as car manufacturing. He says: "Organic fibre is combus-

tible, so when it can be recycled no further you can still recover its energy content.

"That is where we stand to win against glass. It is never going to make Rolls-Royce turbine blades but it will fill the middle ground, particularly in areas where existing materials tend to be used for reasons of weight."

Researchers at the centre have found five valuable components in straw: long fibres, short fibres, waxes, polysaccharides and silica. All with industrial applications. They are developing technologies for a pilot integrated straw-processing plant to extract these



fibres and chemicals. While long fibres might be useful for composite plastics, paper-making or fibreboard manufacture, short fibres can be used as bulk fillers in bitumen and paint or as a source of cellulose feedstock.

Some pulped straw fibre is already used by the paper industry. As with pulped wood, however, the process produces liquid effluent, which has always been viewed as a troublesome pollutant.

The plant will integrate pulping with extraction of other by-products dissolved in the waste stream. The researchers have isolated sugar-based polysaccharides chains such as cellulose for making food packaging — these get

round the use of potentially harmful plasticiser compounds, which can pass into food.

The centre has also patented a food-grade wax derived from cellulose. This is combined with waxes found naturally in straw to form compounds that can directly replace existing petrochemical waxes in the food chain. The final waste stream component, silica, has a market as a filtering material used in processes such as brewing.

"Plants and biofibres have many potential applications," Dr Bolton says. "If we can use these materials with the confidence and ingenuity we have with man-made materials, then we have responded to a terrific challenge."

Saving the rhino with a chainsaw

Conservationists in Africa are cutting horns off rhinos to halt the poachers



Horns of a dilemma: that conservationists believe they have solved

WILDLIFE authorities in Namibia and Zimbabwe are trying to stop poachers killing rhinoceroses for their horns by sawing off the horns themselves. The technique also offers scientists a wealth of data about the black and white rhino.

The horn, which consists of densely packed hair fibre and is prized as an aphrodisiac in Chinese medicine, grows back at two or three inches a year, and monitoring in Namibia suggests that rhinos without their horns behave normally.

Zimbabwe's stock of about 1,500 black rhinos is the world's

last viable wild population of the species. The authorities do not yet know whether dehorning is deterring poachers, but it has allowed scientists to learn more about the biology of rhinos.

The rhinos are hit with darts containing a narcotic fired from a helicopter. As soon as the animals are sedated, researchers measure their size and take blood samples to assess blood cell count, parasites, kidney and liver

enzymes, and antibodies against diseases such as trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness.

Dr Mike Kock, the Zimbabwe wildlife department's veterinarian, has learnt much about dealing with stress in captured animals, which has been the greatest drawback in large-mammal capture in Africa. Capture causes blood to surge to the muscles, to fuel a rapid escape. If an animal is immobilised for a

long time, vital organs can be deprived of blood and the animal can die.

Using oxygen to aid breathing, and a chainsaw to remove the horn rapidly and reduce stress, has helped greatly. Horns can be removed in ten minutes and the animal back on its feet without ill-effects.

The main worry about dehorning is whether it will reduce the ability of cows to defend their calves from predators. Rhinos make poor mothers, often abandoning calves under stress.

JAN RAATH

071-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Fax Numbers
071-481 9313
071-782 7828

TOTAL INVOLVEMENT IN U.K. ENERGY

Total Oil Marine is a leading force in the exploration, development, production and transportation of the UK's natural energy resources. Our Alwyn Field represents one of the largest oil and gas developments to have been brought on stream in the UK sector of the North Sea and we are currently involved in exciting development programmes both offshore and at our St Fergus Gas Terminal.

SENIOR PROCESS ENGINEER

Based in our Aberdeen office and reporting to the Head of Process and Design Engineering you will provide process engineering support to both our onshore and offshore operations.

You will be expected to work on individual projects across a broad base and dependent on size and complexity will lead small engineering teams and undertake a wide variety of assignments from process plant trouble shooting to feasibility studies on future developments.

Providing expert technical support to operating divisions, you will report to management on process design developments, research and

development activities and safety regulations. You will also be involved in negotiations with joint venture partners.

Holding an honours degree in Chemical Engineering, or related discipline, you will have a minimum 8 years' experience in Process Engineering gained in either the oil and gas, refining, or petrochemical industries. A keen trouble-shooter you will enjoy the challenge of handling a number of projects at one time and have broad experience of design and commissioning work. In this position you will be involved in projects within and possibly outwith the UK.

You will be offered an excellent remuneration package including index-linked salary, year-end bonus along with pension, medical and life assurance.

Where required, our comprehensive relocation package, including Home Sale Scheme, is designed to assist you both financially and personally in your move to Aberdeen.

Please write with full C.V., including salary details, to the Company's recruitment consultants: NB Selection Limited, 24 Carden Place, Aberdeen AB1 1UQ. Tel: 0224 638080.

TOTAL
TOTAL OIL MARINE p.l.c.

Verkaufsleiter Upto DM 180,000

Renold, a long established, UK owned, international engineering group, with a reputation for quality and ambitious plans for growth, is seeking a seasoned professional to further profitably develop its important German market. The group manufactures high quality power transmission products, largely in the UK, France and Germany. Its German sales and marketing organisation, run from the Hannover region, with eight branches and warehouses, employs some 100 staff.

The successful candidate will be a native German speaker, able to demonstrate the capacity to develop the coherent strategies necessary to increase market penetration, particularly amongst OEMs. Strong leadership qualities are necessary to invigorate the sales team and improve all aspects of customer service in both direct sales and those through distributors. Ideally, applicants will have substantial managerial experience in the sale of power transmission products, and will certainly be strong on industrial sales of engineering products in an international environment. A mechanical engineering qualification would help evince confidence on technical sales aspects. The high level of investment undertaken and planned in modernising production facilities will continue to improve market competitiveness.

This important and high profile role is only right for someone with the flair and confidence to effect necessary change, and the drive and persistence to see it through. Fluency in English is essential.

In return, we can offer an excellent salary and competitive benefits, fully expensed car, and the scope to grow with the business. A comprehensive relocation package will be available.

If you can confidently match the requirements for this demanding role, you should telephone Gerald Lucas, Group Personnel Manager on 061-437 5221 (Sunday 061-488 4873) or write enclosing a full CV with salary details to: Renold PLC, Renold House, Sydal Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 5WL, England.

Golf Industry - Retail Marketing

Nevada Bob's is the largest chain of Golf Stores in the world, with ambitious plans for expansion in the UK.

We are now looking for a **MARKETING and FRANCHISING MANAGER** who will play a key role in the growth of the company.

Reporting to the Director of Operations, the successful applicant will take responsibility for the planning and implementation of the company's marketing activities and for the recruitment and qualification of franchisees. He or she will therefore have bluechip marketing experience, preferably a knowledge of franchising and the personal qualities of ambition, energy and flexibility needed by a young dynamic company.

Salary will depend on age and experience. A company car is included in the package.

Applicants should send a full CV to: Keith Norman, Chairman, Nevada Bob (UK) Ltd, Staples Corner Retail Park, Coron Way, Edgware Road, London NW2 6LW.

NEVADA BOB
The Largest Chain of Golf Stores in The World.

CAREER SERVICES GUIDE

MANAGER £20k + CAREER NEED?
Career counselling, psychometric assessment, or presentation, interview skills training, top the underemployed job market, marketing support, comprehensive professional help with your career management and job search campaign for a specific and more effective and result. Career development loans may be available. Programmes tailored to your needs and budget. Telephone: Luton (0525) 482198 for a free, confidential discussion. **M.D.B.** Member of the consultants register of the Institute of Personnel Management.

BETTER POSITIONS REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL CV'S

We have extensive experience in the preparation of CV's in the Engineering, Computing, Accounting, Banking, Sales and Marketing fields, as well as many others. **RING ACADEMY CV'S NOW ON 081 547 3796 (24 HOURS)** ALL CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT & WORKING HOLIDAYS

Opportunities Available Worldwide. Temporary or Permanent. Skilled or Unskilled including: Australia, The Caribbean, Canada, Africa, U.S.A. and Europe. For Further Details of our service send 2 x 24p stamps to: **Best 1 GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, 4, DUNDAS AVENUE, WHITEHALL, KENT CT5 1RT.**

CRÈME

SECRETARY REQUIRED
Recently established professional practice in West End. Should be proficient in Word Perfect and audio. Ability to organise office and occasional work done. Salary by arrangement. Please reply to Box No 6717

SUPER SECRETARIES

SUPERB SEC
£16,500+
EXC BENS INC
MORT SUB
Join an exciting ELITE Venture Capital Team - LOTS of organising, assisting with MARKETING, & monitoring investments opportunities. EXCELLENT presentation and secretarial skills (80/60) essential. 100% INVOLVEMENT guaranteed. Call DIANNA DUGGAN ASSOCIATES 071-374-2921 Rec Cons.

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO: BOX NO. 6717, P.O. BOX 484, VIRGINIA STREET, WAPPING, LONDON, E1 9DD.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

POLITICS & PUBLISHING £15,500

One of the fastest moving political consultancies, with bases in London, Washington and Brussels, needs a clever, quick and hard-working assistant to provide secretarial, publishing and administrative support. 60/90 plus Wordsworth & Pegasus DTP skills and an interest in politics. Age 27 - 40. Dress and lunch allowance plus bonuses. Send details to Penny Thomas, The Public Policy Unit, 50 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JU. Fax 071 828 7217

MAYFAIR

Old established Mayfair property company requires P.A./Secretary for the Chairman and 2 Directors. Must be experienced with good shorthand and W.P. speeds. Interesting position requiring full involvement. Please write, enclosing CV, to: Pippa Underwood, Huxley Holdings Plc, 52 Upper Brook Street, London W1Y 1PC or Fax: 071 629 3749. Tel: 071 488 1455. NO AGENCIES

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Applicants, 25+ required to co-ordinate staff and manage service, in Company selling business equipment. Senior position requiring detailed and extensive knowledge of the equipment. Salary by arrangement. Please reply to Box No 6713

RESEARCH ANALYST FOR NORWAY

As part of our Scandinavian Research Team - based in London - extensive knowledge of Norwegian corporate & financial markets and Economy trends established connections with key officers in Norwegian industry, commerce and government. Attractive salary and benefits. Please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV to Box No 6713

TRAVELERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

LONG HAUL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS

Established in 1970, we are the market leaders in selling independent worldwide holidays. If you are aged 22-30, well travelled, have an excellent telephone manner, an aptitude for selling and can be as enthusiastic at 6pm as you are at 9am, then this could be the perfect environment for you! In return for your commitment, an excellent salary package complements an impressive range of benefits. * performance-related salary reviews * promotion based on performance * intensive in-house training * excellent travel opportunities VACANCIES IN LONDON AND MANCHESTER Send full CV to Paul Fenwick Trailfinders Travel Centre 42-50 Earls Court Road, London W6 6EJ

FINANCIAL SALES EXECUTIVES

150 POSITIONS MIDLANDS AND SOUTH
EXCELLENT MANAGEMENT PROSPECTS

Experienced Financial Services professionals required in a large expansion program for a variety of high calibre positions throughout the Midlands and South of England. Minimum 12 months experience in Life and Pensions with ability to progress to Senior Management essential. If you feel that your earnings do not reward your efforts or your career progression is slow or non-existent. Call the Sales Specialists.

STOP PRESS!!!!

Are you in sales? Looking for a change? Are you in F.A.C.C. Offices Equip, Ad, Sales, Engineering Sales? Then contact the Sales Specialists now! Contact Mark Richardson or Steve Setchell on 071 721 7934, 7925 or 7937. Fax details on 071 721 7936 or send CV's to Euro Personnel Services, 53 Gun Street, London E1 6AU.

America abandons veto on Bae sales to Iran

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ROSS TIEMAN IN LONDON

THE Bush administration has abandoned its controversial refusal to allow British Aerospace to sell civil aircraft with American components to Iran. There has been no announcement but reliable Washington sources said Lawrence Eagleburger, the deputy secretary of state, had approved a commerce department decision to permit the sales.

The administration's change of heart might have come too late to rescue Bae's contract to sell an Iranian airline up to 12 Bae 146 regional jets. Washington's approval is important, however, as the company is understood to be pursuing several other contracts in the Iranian market.

The about-turn will also remove a rare bone of contention between London and Washington. The administration imposed its veto last July despite sustained British lobbying and the personal intervention of Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. The American decision was publicly criticised by ministers, who pointed out that Washington had approved the sale to Iran of Dutch Fokker 100 aircraft with similar amounts of American components.

Mr Eagleburger's decision was clearly facilitated by the

recent release of the last American hostages held by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon and the return of the remains of two Americans who died in captivity there. This alleviated the administration's earlier fears of a congressional outcry if it allowed the sales.

However, the commerce department had separately decided that the 146 contained too few American components to breach the 10 per cent threshold above which its approval was required for selling products to countries that sponsored terrorism. It had originally assessed the 146 as having 16 per cent American parts, but later decided the American-made engine should not be counted as it was licensed for production before the legislation came into effect.

British Aerospace was hoping to sell Iran four 146s worth between \$100 million and \$150 million, and options on eight additional aircraft. Two weeks ago, the company was sufficiently encouraged to send three demonstration aircraft to Iran to go through their paces.

Iran has a fleet of ageing Boeing 747s to replace. The 146, which can carry up to 120 passengers, would help to improve links within the country and with neighbouring states.



Approval: Lawrence Eagleburger, deputy secretary

Ukraine applies for full membership of IMF

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON

UKRAINE has become the first member of the new commonwealth of former Soviet republics to apply to join the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Full membership could give Ukraine access to millions of dollars in loans to help it to build a market economy, instead of simply the advice and technical assistance that are all the two financial institutions can offer at present.

As a condition of those loans, Ukraine would have to follow an economic reform plan approved by the IMF.

In a letter to the World Bank, Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian president, said he was confident that his application would be accepted and his country would thus be permitted to play "an appropriate role in the global economy".

The Baltic states — Estonia,

Lithuania and Latvia — which gained their independence at the end of last summer, have already become members, and applications are expected soon from Russia and the other newly independent republics.

The Soviet Union had special associate membership but its early summer application for full membership made little progress. Officials said Ukraine's application would be processed as quickly as possible, but full membership could still take some months.

Among other things, the IMF has to decide what shareholding Ukraine should be allocated, a decision normally based on data, such as past economic performance, that will be very difficult to compile in the case of the former republics.

The size of the shareholding helps to determine

the size of potential loans. On Monday, John Major, the prime minister, urged Russia and other members of the new Commonwealth of Independent States to seek early membership of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"Full membership will enable you to draw on the considerable financial resources of these institutions in support of an agreed reform programme," he told Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, in a letter.

President Bush said that America will support membership of the two bodies for the new states, and IMF officials are already preparing economic reform plans for them.

One advantage for the industrialised nations is that they would be under less pressure to provide direct financial aid themselves.

Ratners' US rival teeters

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ZALE Corporation, America's largest jeweller and the biggest competitor to the American operations of Britain's Ratners Group, is expected to seek the protection of the bankruptcy courts following a major reorganisation and an 11 per cent drop in Christmas takings.

Ratners was itself conspicuous by its absence from the year-end cheer on the London stock market, with a 3p fall to 27p.

Zale's creditors are threatening to force the store chain into bankruptcy after it unilaterally stopped payments to suppliers, bankers and bondholders on Monday, three days ahead of today's final deadline to make \$52 million in interest payments on debts of about \$1.2 billion.

Zale is closing 400 of its 2,000 stores and shedding 2,500 of the 12,500 workforce.

MCC deal avoids Anglo-US legal battle

BY NEIL BENNETT

THE High Court in London has approved a co-operation deal between Price Waterhouse and a New York lawyer for the running of Maxwell Communication Corporation, the media group.

Robin Potts QC, counsel for PW, revealed in court on Tuesday that the agreement is essentially one of power-sharing between PW, administrator of MCC, and Richard Gidlin, a Connecticut lawyer appointed under American bankruptcy laws as MCC's examiner.

The agreement is expected to be endorsed by the New York bankruptcy court tomorrow. Mr Potts said the administrators and Mr Gidlin had worked out a *modus vivendi* for the harmonisation of British and American insolvency laws. The deal makes history, being the first time a company has been placed simultaneously in administration in Britain and chapter 11 protection in America.

Under the terms of the agreement, the High Court confirmed Mr Gidlin's appointment as examiner, and he and his team will work with PW's accountants on a reconstruction plan.

Colin Bird and the other PW administrators have won their battle for corporate governance, or overall control of MCC, but have been forced to make important concessions to Mr Gidlin to allow him to monitor their performance and block any move with which he disagrees. PW cannot order any liquidations or make disposals worth more than £25 million without the approval of Mr Gidlin or the American courts.

Both the administrators and the examiner have the right to appear in court in Britain or America.

Mr Gidlin has the right to investigate the assets and liabilities of MCC, but must defer to any investigations under way by PW. He also has the right to appoint solicitors, accountants and merchant bankers to advise him.

The agreement secures the position of David Shaffer, the head of Macmillan, MCC's largest subsidiary. Mr Potts said the administrators and Mr Gidlin would work to ensure Mr Shaffer remains in executive control of Macmillan and the Official Airlines Guides in America. MCC's other directors lose their executive powers.

PW hopes the agreement will allow it to start trying to reconstruct MMC, which owes the banks £1.3 billion. Numerous disposals are expected.

Legal landmarks cloud Lloyd's brighter horizon

For Lloyd's, fighting its corner in the harsh commercial environment of the insurance industry, this will be a vital year.

Above all, Lloyd's needs to see an accelerated continuation of the hardening in insurance rates that began last year if it is to reverse the outflow of names from the market. Twelve months ago, most senior Lloyd's figures were confidently predicting a sharp upturn in the insurance cycle and a return to profitable underwriting during the course of the year.

Now, 1991 is being seen as something of a disappointment, with early indications suggesting a break-even year rather than a runaway success. The upturn came late and only affected certain classes of business. Profit warnings from Sturge and AJ Archer, the two main publicly quoted underwriting agencies, about their 1991 results gives an indication of how much further there is to go before the dark days of Lloyd's are banished.

By far the most disappointing market within Lloyd's was non-marine, where property rates, in particular commercial fire rates, have seen little upward movement. Increases in other areas, such as liability and professional indemnity, are described as "adequate" by John Wetherell, the outgoing chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriters' Non-Marine Association.

While the market suffered none of the cataclysmic natural and man-made disasters of earlier years, there was still a sufficient sprinkling of smaller, but still very large, losses to make life uncomfortable for non-marine underwriters. These included the Calgary hailstorm, hurricane Bob, and the Californian fires, all in the last three months of the year.

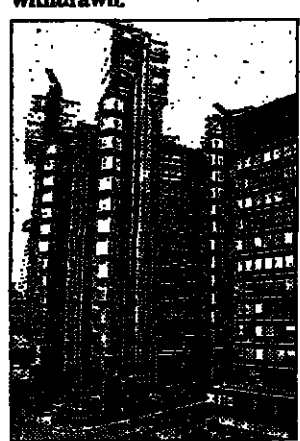
With the LMX reinsurance market still dramatically depleted, a far greater proportion of these losses than in the past will fall on the direct insurers and their primary reinsurers. The result has been a continuing shake out in the non-marine market, with perhaps 20 out of 180 syndicates disappearing this year and, according to Mr Wetherell, lower capacity. Whether this will be sufficient to give rates the kick start they really need remains to be seen.

Mr Wetherell believes that rises of between 25 and 100 per cent are necessary if "awful ramifications"

are to be avoided. However, the general perception is that the non-marine market is lagging a year or two behind the rest of the market and that, in time, rates will pick up.

In the marine market, last year has been a far more promising year, with rate increases coming through strongly, although perhaps a little late in the year for comfort. That process is widely expected to continue this year.

On the pure marine hull business, rises of between 25 and 40 per cent have been typical, though in the case of policyholders with poorer claims records, the hikes have been as high as 150 per cent. Just as importantly, the terms of the policies have changed significantly in the underwriters' favour. For example, the notorious "additional perils" coverage, which brought every petty act of crew negligence under the umbrella of the policy, has been largely withdrawn.



Lloyd's: vital year

In addition, the deductible — the amount of the loss that has to be borne by the assured — have been increased by between 100 and 200 per cent. This has removed most of the small, attritional claims that accounted for the vast majority of total marine hull claims.

The marine cargo market has been slower to react, according to Ian Agnew, the chairman of IC Agnew Underwriting, with rates showing little movement so far. This is because the insured limits are lower, placing fewer demands on market capacity. Only when loss-making underwriters finally give up cargo as a bad lot will the market significantly improve. That may take some time yet.

In the energy account, there have been improvements in rates and conditions, and barring any appalling losses on the scale of Piper Alpha, there should be a return to profit next year, according to Mr

Agnew. Rates are up by between 20 and 100 per cent with an average increase of about 45 per cent. In real terms, they are similar to the rates seen in the early Eighties. As in other markets, underwriters' minds are being sharply focused by the lack of reinsurance protection available in the market.

The aviation market has also seen a string of spectacular rate increases during this year's renewal season. But it is a measure of just how low rates have fallen that even a doubling of the total premium income may not be sufficient to restore profitability.

Worldwide premium income is estimated to have risen from a base of about \$350 million to last year's level of between \$700 and \$800 million. As a very rough rule of thumb, losses have run at an average annual rate of about \$1 billion in recent years. So it looks as if it will be at least another year before the aviation account at Lloyd's returns to profit.

Meanwhile, among the wreckage of huge losses in other sectors, the motor market chugs along nicely, and profitably. According to Colin White of the Lloyd's Motor Underwriters' Association, rates started moving in late summer, accelerating through the autumn and "exploding" from October onwards.

The process continues and is expected to go on through the first half of this year. Year on year, the rate increases by December are about 25 per cent, with at least a further 10 per cent to come. Given that in 1988 only one of the 30 motor syndicates at Lloyd's incurred a loss, these figures suggest a bright outlook for 1992.

Overall, the prospects for Lloyd's in pure financial terms are better than they have been since the mid-Eighties. The recovery is undoubtedly under way, although it is patchy and painfully slow in some accounts. The flood of claims between 1988 and 1990 may be receding, but it has left a grim high water mark of losses, open years and litigation.

If this year is set to be one of recovery, it will also be the year that the Outhwaite case is decided and the American names come to court. If these legal landmarks go against Lloyd's, the best underwriting results in the history of the market may not be sufficient to compensate for the damage inflicted.

JONATHAN PRYNN

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE MARKETS

London's shares see 1991 out with a bang

ANOTHER record-breaking year overnight in New York enabled share prices in London to see the old year out with a bang. The equity market enjoyed its biggest one-day rise since the day after the Dow Jones industrial average's 62-point surge on Monday to yet another all-time high as American investors continued to take an optimistic view of the American economy.

The FT-SE 100 index advanced towards 2,500 but closed just below its best of the day with a rise of 73.1 points at 2,493.1. Its previous biggest one-day rise was October 1990, when it leapt by 73 points on the news that Britain was going to join the exchange rate mechanism.

The improvement on the year is an impressive 17 per cent. The index has now risen 135 points since the start of the Christmas week alone, wiping out the losses of the previous account.

Dealers said the advance had been partly fuelled by the expiration of the December FT-SE 100 index options and futures where there had been a number of short positions that needed to be covered. Trading in London, unlike New York, remained thin with only 306 million shares changing hands.

Market-makers had been anxious to maintain level trading positions over the holiday and this, combined with the end of the financial year for several securities houses, softened demand. However, despite the City's apparent euphoria, some traders are worried.

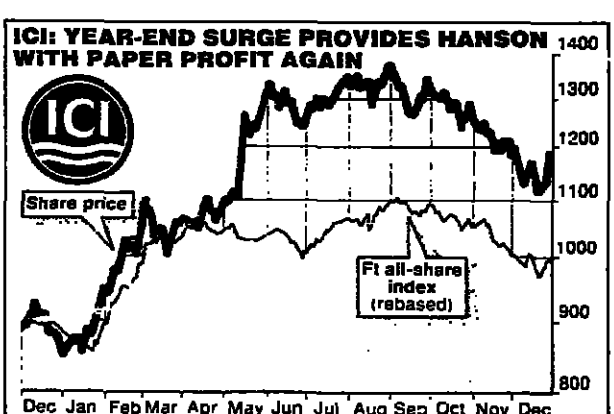
Wall Street is currently being revalued to reflect the increased optimism about the American economy. However, there is no such optimism about the British economy. The expected upturn is some

way off and the pound is still giving cause for concern on the foreign exchanges. Fund managers are also bracing themselves for further dividend cuts by leading companies this year.

Government securities enjoyed an early rally as the overseas selling, which featured strongly on Monday, dried up. But early gains of 1/2 at the longer end were eventually scaled back to 1/4.

As with the previous Wall Street-inspired gains, it was leading companies with an international flavour, or that have an American quotation, which made all the early running. Leading the way higher was ICI, with the shares 76p dearer at £12.10. That will be good news for Hanson, which is again enjoying a paper profit on its near 3 per cent investment in ICI, having paid £11.94 a share.

Others to make headway included BAT, 16p to 618p,



Rothmans International's B shares, 43p to £11.09, Unilever, 26p to 902p, Allied-Lyons, 24p to 619p, BTR, 18p to 399p, BOC Group, 21p to 610p, Guinness, 15p to 508p, Courtaulds, 27p to 505p, Grand Metropolitan, 26p to 882p, and Pearson, 23p to 698p.

The only company in the

top 100 to end lower on the day was BICC, down 9p at 303p, as the company faced up to the prospect of losing its position in the FT-SE 100 index. The shares were a weak market last year with analysts becoming increasingly bearish. But Graeme Cull at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has made BICC his

share of the year for 1992. He believes the selling has been overdone and he expects the dividend to be maintained despite the view to the contrary elsewhere. A maintained dividend would revive confidence in the shares and provide a rating likely to attract the income funds. The new constituents in the index include MB-Caradon, 10p better at 264p, Laporte, 35p higher at 620p, and Tomkins, 5p up at 410p.

The pharmaceutical sector was again a hot-bed of activity with prices continuing to make headway as brokers took the view that the sector will grow strongly in 1992. The big names were all chased high in thin trading. Wellcome attracted further support after this week's bullish news that the group had found a way of slowing down the death rate among AIDS sufferers during the first year of the disease with a cocktail

of drugs, made up of its own anti-AIDS drug, Retrovir, and Zovirax, the anti-herpes treatment.

The shares finished 35p higher at another all-time high of £11.01 — rise on the week of so far of 137p. Analysts expect the new treatment to add an extra £100 million to sales in the long term.

Fisons continued to claw back Friday's losses with a rise of 15p to 326p. The shares were affected by reports in an American newsletter that the group's relationship with America's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was under strain because of increasing production problems.

Others to make headway included Glaxo, 40p to 853p, London International, 5p to 297p, Macarthy, 3p to 269p, Reckitt & Colman, 22p to 645p, and Smith & Nephew, 1p to 139p.

SmithKline Beecham's A shares climbed 43p to 895p as the group obtained FDA approval to market Relafen, its anti-inflammatory drug, in America.

The stores sector was bravely facing up to 1992, regardless of the persistent pessimism concerning consumers' confidence and the almost certain knowledge that Christmas had been something of a flop for the retailers.

There were improvements for Argos, 4p to 273p, Body Shop, 11p to 354p, Boots, 3p to 429p, Dixons, 8p to 205p, Great Universal Stores A, 26p to £14.15, Kingfisher, 15p to 482p, Marks and Spencer, 10p to 276p, Next, 2p to 57p, Sainsbury, 4p to 84p, and Storehouse, 3p to 88p.

The A shares of WH Smith, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, advanced 6p to 450p.

MICHAEL CLARK

4.5 per cent. An estimated 160 million shares traded during the shortened day.

Hong Kong — Shares closed at a record in half-day trading. The Hang Seng index closed 22.13 points higher at 4,297.33.

Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index closed at the day's high of 1,490.70, up 13.72 points.

Sydney — The all-or-includes closed 38.9 points higher at 1,651.4 after investors went on a buying spree.

Frankfurt — Closed for the New Year holiday. The market reopens today. (Reuters)

WALL STREET

Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sept 30	Sept 29	Sept 28	Sept 27	Sept 26	Sept 25	Sept 24	Sept 23	Sept 22	Sept 21	Sept 20	Sept 19	Sept 18	Sept 17	Sept 16	Sept 15	Sept 14	Sept 13	Sept 12	Sept 11	Sept 10	Sept 9	Sept 8	Sept 7	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 4	Sept 3	Sept 2	Sept 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 29	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 22	February 21	February 20	February 19	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 12	February 11	February 10	February 9	February 8	February 7	February 6	February 5	February 4	February 3	February 2	February 1	January 31	January 30	January 29	January 28	January 27	January 26	January 25	January 24	January 23	January 22	January 21	January 20	January 19	January 18	January 17	January 16	January 15	January 14	January 13	January 12	January 11	January 10	January 9	January 8	January 7	January 6	January 5	January 4	January 3	January 2	January 1	December 31	December 30	December 29	December 28	December 27	December 26	December 25	December 24	December 23	December 22	December 21	December 20	December 19	December 18	December 17	December 16	December 15	December 14	December 13	December 12	December 11	December 10	December 9	December 8	December 7	December 6	December 5	December 4	December 3	December 2	December 1	November 30	November 29	November 28	November 27	November 26	November 25	November 24	November 23	November 22	November 21	November 20	November 19	November 18	November 17	November 16	November 15	November 14	November 13	November 12	November 11	November 10	November 9	November 8	November 7	November 6	November 5	November 4	November 3	November 2	November 1	October 31	October 30	October 29	October 28	October 27	October 26	October 25	October 24	October 23	October 22	October 21	October 20	October 19	October 18	October 17	October 16	October 15	October 14	October 13	October 12	October 11	October 10	October 9	October 8	October 7	October 6	October 5	October 4	October 3	October 2	October 1	September 30	September 29	September 28	September 27	September 26	September 25	September 24	September 23	September 22	September 21	September 20	September 19	September 18	September 17	September 16	September 15	September 14	September 13	September 12	September 11	September 10	September 9	September 8	September 7	September 6	September 5	September 4	September 3	September 2	September 1	August 31	August 30	August 29	August 28	August 27	August 26	August 25	August 24	August 23	August 22	August 21	August 20	August 19	August 18	August 17	August 16	August 15	August 14	August 13	August 12	August 11	August 10	August 9	August 8	August 7	August 6	August 5	August 4	August 3	August 2	August 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 29	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 22	February 21	February 20	February 19	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 12	February 11	February 10	February 9	February 8	February 7	February 6	February 5	February 4	February 3	February 2	February 1	January 31	January 30	January 29	January 28	January 27	January 26	January 25	January 24	January 23	January 22	January 21	January 20	January 19	January 18	January 17	January 16	January 15	January 14	January 13	January 12	January 11	January 10	January 9	January 8	January 7	January 6	January 5	January 4	January 3	January 2	January 1	December 31	December 30	December 29	December 28	December 27	December 26	December 25	December 24	December 23	December 22	December 21	December 20	December 19	December 18	December 17	December 16	December 15	December 14	December 13	December 12	December 11	December 10	December 9	December 8	December 7	December 6	December 5	December 4	December 3	December 2	December 1	November 30	November 29	November 28	November 27	November 26	November 25	November 24	November 23	November 22	November 21	November 20	November 19	November 18	November 17	November 16	November 15	November 14	November 13	November 12	November 11	November 10	November 9	November 8	November 7	November 6	November 5	November 4	November 3	November 2	November 1	October 31	October 30	October 29	October 28	October 27	October 26	October 25	October 24	October 23	October 22	October 21	October 20	October 19	October 18	October 17	October 16	October 15	October 14	October 13	October 12	October 11	October 10	October 9	October 8	October 7	October 6	October 5	October 4	October 3	October 2	October 1	September 30	September 29	September 28	September 27	September 26	September 25	September 24	September 23	September 22	September 21	September 20	September 19	September 18	September 17	September 16	September 15	September 14	September 13	September 12	September 11	September 10	September 9	September 8	September 7	September 6	September 5	September 4	September 3	September 2	September 1	August 31	August 30	August 29	August 28	August 27	August 26	August 25	August 24	August 23	August 22	August 21	August 20	August 19	August 18	August 17	August 16	August 15	August 14	August 13	August 12	August 11	August 10	August 9	August 8	August 7	August 6	August 5	August 4	August 3	August 2	August 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 29	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 22	February 21	February 20	February 19	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 12	February 11	February 10	February 9	February 8	February 7	February 6	February 5	February 4	February 3	February 2	February 1	January 31	January 30	January 29	January 28	January 27	January 26	January 25	January 24	January 23	January 22	January 21	January 20	January 19	January 18	January 17	January 16	January 15	January 14	January 13	January 12	January 11	January 10	January 9	January 8	January 7	January 6	January 5	January 4	January 3	January 2	January 1	December 31	December 30	December 29	December 28	December 27	December 26	December 25	December 24	December 23	December 22	December 21	December 20	December 19	December 18	December 17	December 16	December 15	December 14	December 13	December 12	December 11	December 10	December 9	December 8	December 7	December 6	December 5	December 4	December 3	December 2	December 1	November 30	November 29	November 28	November 27	November 26	November 25	November 24	November 23	November 22	November 21	November 20	November 19	November 18	November 17	November 16	November 15	November 14	November 13	November 12	November 11	November 10	November 9	November 8	November 7	November 6	November 5	November 4	November 3	November 2	November 1	October 31	October 30	October 29	October 28	October 27	October 26	October 25	October 24	October 23	October 22	October 21	October 20	October 19	October 18	October 17	October 16	October 15	October 14	October 13	October 12	October 11	October 10	October 9	October 8	October 7	October 6	October 5	October 4	October 3	October 2	October 1	September 30	September 29	September 28	September 27	September 26	September 25	September 24	September 23	September 22	September 21	September 20	September 19	September 18	September 17	September 16	September 15	September 14	September 13	September 12	September 11	September 10	September 9	September 8	September 7	September 6	September 5	September 4	September 3	September 2	September 1	August 31	August 30	August 29	August 28	August 27	August 26	August 25	August 24	August 23	August 22	August 21	August 20	August 19	August 18	August 17	August 16	August 15	August 14	August 13	August 12	August 11	August 10	August 9	August 8	August 7	August 6	August 5	August 4	August 3	August 2	August 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 29	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 22	February 21	February 20	February 19	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 1
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------

When sterling's luck runs out

The prime minister will be crossing his fingers in hope that the confidence he expressed in his new year message will improve sentiment for the pound when markets reopen today after the long break. His reassurance that there will be no devaluation of the pound through a realignment within the European exchange-rate mechanism was intended for the ears of the currency dealers. For the test facing sterling from this morning and, more demanding, from Monday, when the Japanese market reopens, is whether or not the pound can continue to maintain some daylight above its ERM floor, with the lowest differential between German and British interest rates for more than a decade.

Mr Major's dismissal of the "fool's gold" of devaluation, and his careful elaboration of the loss of credibility such a move would entail, might appear as a mere prime ministerial booster to the Chancellor's talk-up of the pound. After all, it took only a few words from Norman Lamont on December 13 to give the pound a three-penny lift, without wasting a penny of reserves. The pledge then was not to emulate the Italians and use an eventual British move from 6 per cent ERM fluctuation bands to the 2.25 per cent margins for a sneak devaluation.

The Bundesbank's unseasonal Christmas gift of a half-point increase in its lombard and discount rates, later more than wiped out by the benefits from the Chancellor's verbal message. But Lady Luck, in the form of this currency markets during the festive season and the Bank of England's \$43 billion war chest for intervention, prevented any serious assault on the pound. The question is whether this luck will hold out or whether those ever-lauded market forces will put the government's resolve to the test. Given the elusiveness of the promised recovery, some currency analysts still believe the government can be stampeded into desperate action.

Current wisdom is that voters' perceptions of the economy will decide the election. Low inflation, the pyrrhic victory to emerge from deep recession, will be insufficient to demonstrate good management. This school of thought believes Mr Lamont could opt to slash interest rates American-style to ensure recovery. Pressure on sterling would be met by either moving to narrow bands, a *l'italiana*, or by securing a general ERM realignment. The alternative school of thought, now in the ascendant in the City, will have been encouraged by Mr Major's remarks to believe that he intends to go to country with sterling at its present central rate of DM2.95. That not only means no devaluation, but assures the low-inflation and "steady" (read, sluggish) growth the prime minister declared as his main goals.

If the no-devaluation school is correct, the markets are certain to want base rates brought into line with "poor" market rates. The Bank of England, as a skilled operator, knows it would be foolish to try to buck an earnest market for too long. Currently, the pound enjoys splendid isolation as the only ERM currency not to have followed the Bundesbank's tightening. Nobody appears to be seeking a general realignment that would allow Britain an escape hatch.

Mr Lamont has to choose between a Custer's Last Stand that will cost him his reserves, or retain the initiative with an early base-rate hike. The latter would demonstrate that the government has not been entirely out of action where monetary policy is concerned and would demonstrate its commitment to the ERM. Given the prospect of British inflation below that of Germany in the first quarter, a base rate rise could be quickly reversed, thus presenting no undue threat to the recovery we still await.

Douglas McWilliams
of the CBI forecasts

that Europe's economic
hangover will provide a
headache for the UK

It is tempting to be depressed with the Cheshire Cat recovery which faded away during 1991 and to react by surrounding any positive prediction for 1992 with the ambiguity of caveats.

Yet the conventional wisdom is that there will be some modest lifting of the clouds surrounding the economy in 1992 as inflation falls further, savings stop rising, government spending projects come on stream and business inventories get so low the shelves become bare and the storage tanks empty and need refilling.

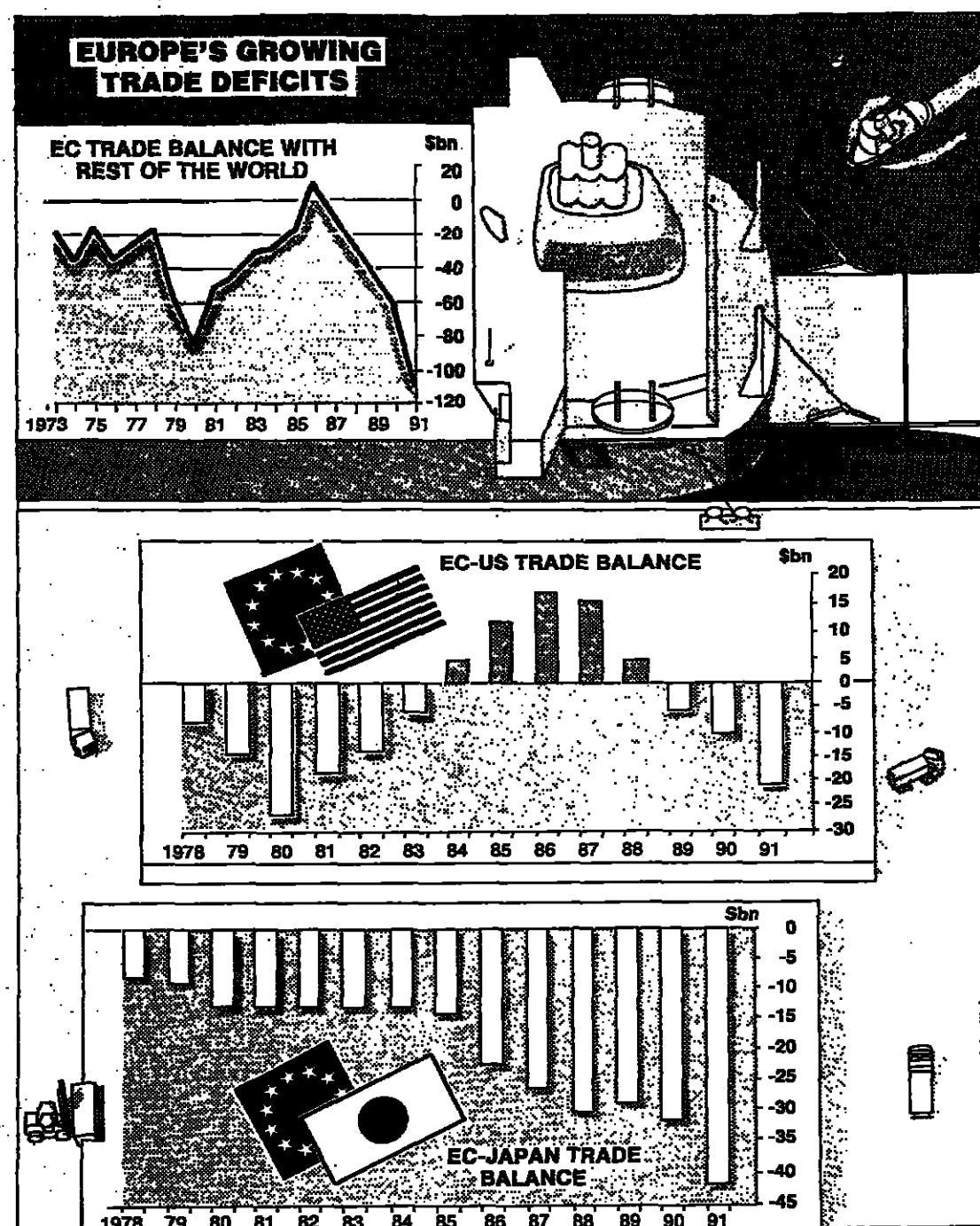
The United Kingdom will be held back by a weak world economy and particularly a European economy — taking more than 50 per cent of our exports — suffering from the hangover after the party of German unification. The feedthrough of this hangover to the other European countries is all the greater because we are in an uncomfortable intermediate stage: there is now effectively a single European currency but because the institutions of that single currency have not yet come into operation, interest rate policy is still decided by the Bundesbank.

It would be unrealistic to expect that the Bundesbank will run the single currency in anything other than the German interest — which is considered to be defeating inflation by high interest rates rather than by paying for the costs of unification in higher taxes. So high rates are the rule in Europe whatever the domestic economic conditions, until lower inflation emerges in Germany. This may not be until late 1992.

There is the theoretical option of a realignment of the European currency, but too much credibility has been invested in maintaining the strength of most European currencies against the mark to be thrown away lightly. So growth in most of western Europe in 1992 will be poised somewhere between the slow and the non-existent. Moreover, many European countries are suffering the competitive damage that results from labour markets that are both inflexible and expensive.

The cost of labour including the so-called social overheads for employers in the main European countries varies from \$15 per hour in the United Kingdom to \$24 in Germany. This compares with about \$14 in America and Japan, and \$3 to \$4 in Singapore, Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong. The result has been an erosion of European export performance — the European Community has lost one third of its world export market share since 1985.

This is a relatively new problem for most parts of Europe. In Britain, by comparison, we have had a long experience of losing export markets and have made a start in trying to



turn the problem round. The main ingredients have been allowing managers to make their own decisions through deregulation and privatisation, improved skills training (the best news from Confederation of British Industry surveys throughout the recession so far has been the persistence of positive investment intentions for training) and more flexible labour markets.

It is unfortunate that most EC countries have insisted on going ahead with their social chapter which will lock in their competitive problems rather than learning from past British mistakes. Yet eventually economic pressures will force them to abrogate or ignore the social chapter. The tragedy is that this will only happen after European workers have suffered the lost jobs that are the inevitable result of such empty promises.

The deeper underlying fear for the economies of the English-speaking world for 1992 are that we will have to continue to pay a heavy price for

bursting the inflationary bubble of the Eighties. Although ultimately this inflation became pervasive throughout these economies, the most prominent signs were in the asset markets, especially property.

There are huge long-term economic and social benefits from bursting this bubble. Eventually, when inflation is securely down, there is the prospect of a housing market based on needs without speculation pushing prices out of range of most first-time buyers; of a business climate where the long term yield from investment is more important than the short-term profits from deals, of bankers who will prefer to lend against a genuine track-record rather than finance speculation; and of pay rises based on performance rather than theoretical compensation for inflation.

Achieving these gains will be good for those with skills in providing what customers need and bad for the spivs and wide-boys. They will be good for those who are prepared to

work hard and bad for those who make their living from trading in volatile markets. All societies need their market-traders but the wrong signals are sent if they are excessively rewarded from the fruits of inflation compared with others who also provide essential goods and services. Above all, low inflation will reward the saver, not the borrower, and help reintroduce the virtue of thrift.

But the price of disinflation is similar to that of giving up hard drugs. In Britain much of our financial system has been based on the assumption that inflation will bail out borrower and lender. This reinforced the easy availability of credit during the boom.

The problem is that disinflation has made a sizable proportion of this past lending unviable, leading to bad debt provisions and mortgage repossession. In America the entire building society sector, the "savings and loans", has had to be bailed out

by the federal government at an as-yet uncertain cost running into billions of dollars. And the credit ratings of the main American banks are lower than those of their blue-chip customers. In the United Kingdom, our financial system did not go as far, but the scale of the unexpected problems has left many bankers shell-shocked. Moreover, a tradition of asset-backed lending means that past practices give little guidance on how to lend in non-inflationary times. And whereas in the long term a rise in saving is an essential ingredient in financing investment, higher saving while the banking system is in this state risks deflation.

Economic theory does not tell us how long this "cold turkey" will last. If only two years, we are nearly through it, and the worst is over; if five years, then there is more bad news to come. The evidence from past history is moderately encouraging — disinflation in the high inflation countries of South America has worked its way through in small numbers of years, while the United Kingdom in the early Thirties had two years of falling output followed by a further year with output flat before a healthy recovery started with growth at an annual rate of more than 4 per cent for five years.

The leading indicators today suggest the belt is just about loose enough to let our economy start moving again. Although monetary growth has fallen sharply, broad money has still expanded by 6 per cent in the past year. With inflation trending to 3 per cent, this should allow some scope for real growth.

The critical factor is confidence, which has been volatile in the past nine months. At present it is weak in both consumer and business circles and may well remain so while the prospects for the economy and for politics remain uncertain. Against that, the measures announced in the autumn statement and since plus any further economic stimuli that might emerge in the coming months should stabilise the position.

This leaves the election. With most commentators hedging their bets about who will win, a Conservative victory would probably have a much stronger positive effect on business and financial confidence than in either 1983 or 1987. A Labour victory (or in some ways worse a hung parliament) would prolong the lack of certainty over the economy, at least until some credibility was established. This might require higher interest rates for a few months and the putting on one side of items of party dogma such as higher income taxes, the minimum wage and raised social benefits.

As a schoolboy cadet learning about target-spotting, I was told that "straight lines never occur in nature". The economy this year may be much the same. It looks as though early 1992 will be weak, the mid-year should show some improvement and the direction at year-end will depend on the election.

This article is the personal view of Professor McWilliams, who is chief economic adviser to the Confederation of British Industry.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

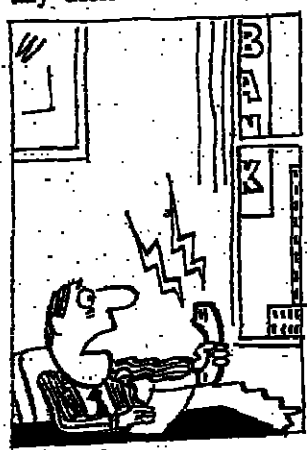
Dynamic duo reunited

SMITH New Court, the broker, is taking yet another stride away from its traditional image as a jobber. The firm, still remembered by some as the Smith Brothers of old, is starting the new year with a strong push into the transportation sector. It has just recruited Mark Laurence, transport analyst at Carr, Kicat & Aitken, to help create a new transport research team. And the move will be something of a reunion, too, since Laurence will find himself once again working alongside Clive Anderson, a fellow transport specialist. The pair had once formed the number one rated transport team at Kicat & Aitken before its demise in the summer of 1990. Laurence moved on to Carr, Kicat while Anderson, deciding on a change of direction, joined the corporate finance team at Royal Bank of Canada instead. Anderson joined Smith in November, and now he and Laurence are hopeful of regaining their former position in the City's league tables. "We are going to try to rekindle the old flame," says Laurence, a tennis coach in his time, and looking fit and bronzed after a Christmas break, playing tennis in sunnier climes. He starts at Smith today.

Freebie — almost

CITY stickers who fancy a free trip to New York later this year can sign up today — but with two onerous conditions attached. When they arrive there, they will be

obliged to compete in the New York Marathon. And before they step on board the aircraft they must have raised at least £1,250 in sponsorship to help Whizz-Kidz, the charity that buys sports and powered wheelchairs for disabled children and teenagers. The 130 runners who took part in the 1991 challenge raised sufficient to buy wheelchairs for 60 children, and Whizz-Kidz wants to double that number at the 1992 marathon, scheduled for November 1. Michael Dickson, the charity's founder, hopes that the scheme will appeal to runners turned away from the London Marathon. "We are recruiting Clive Anderson, a fellow transport specialist. The pair had once formed the number one rated transport team at Kicat & Aitken before its demise in the summer of 1990. Laurence moved on to Carr, Kicat while Anderson, deciding on a change of direction, joined the corporate finance team at Royal Bank of Canada instead. Anderson joined Smith in November, and now he and Laurence are hopeful of regaining their former position in the City's league tables. "We are going to try to rekindle the old flame," says Laurence, a tennis coach in his time, and looking fit and bronzed after a Christmas break, playing tennis in sunnier climes. He starts at Smith today.



"All I said was happy new year"

Given the bird

WORD now reaches us that fund managers at Rothschild had to endure the hardship of doing some last-minute Christmas grocery shopping after their annual gift of "Christmas turkey each was unexpectedly cancelled. It seems that a cold room housing the birds failed during the weekend before Christmas, leaving the assembled birds all trussed up and nowhere to go. Legend has it that, true to office politics, the size of the bird was to vary in accordance with the seniority of the recipient: the bigger the fund manager, the bigger the turkey.

Double losers

STAFF at the Maxwell family's bankrupt New York Daily News have tested a new investment strategy. About 30 employees, including its editor James Willis, got together to back a racehorse named Pension Fraud running at the Aqueduct track. The pool placed \$225 on the 7-2 favourite. But unfortunately the hacks found that their luck had not changed. Pension Fraud came in a distant third. "We got taken again," bemoans one reporter. "But this time, it was with our eyes wide open."

Time out trends

HALF of the senior British executives who lose their jobs expect to be back at work within about six months, according to a new study of employment trends. But the

size of their redundancy package can have an intriguing effect on the length of time that they spend "between jobs". "Most out-of-work executives have signed a new contract within four and a half months," says Gordon Methven, the managing director of Methven Career Development, a career consultancy. "But there is an interesting correlation between the time that they expect to take and the amount of their severance pay. The more they get the longer they take." Many directors are given up to nine months' salary to help them on their way, and some of them may receive a year's salary or more. Three quarters of the redundant chief executives, finance directors and other senior personnel interviewed by Methven cited "not enough new openings" as a significant barrier to re-employment, but a third were worried that a new post might prove too challenging. Others were worried about adapting to a different corporate culture or being relocated.

Whoops!

GREAT boos of our time... the following correction was rushed out by the Press Association news service: "In 1 CITY Rascal (Rascal's takeover victory) read in fourth par 'Rascal chairman Sir Ernest Harrison...' substituting 'Harrison' for 'Saunders'."

THE Reader's Digest has written to its readers to wish them a happy new year. The letter is signed by the company's prize draw manager... one Tom Champagne.

JON ASHWORTH

Germany grows

From Dr J. Pressburger
Sir, Mr Roger Nighingale states in his article "German rate bombshell is just a damp squib" (Business News, December 30): "When it becomes clear that Germany... is headed for its most severe downturn since the Thirties, eyebrows will be raised."

In contrast, Dr Franz Thomas, the highly respected economic editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, quotes the IFO institute expecting a growth of 1.5 per cent for west Germany and 12 per cent for the eastern part, raising the total for the whole of Germany to a growth of 2 per cent in 1992.

Whatever else may affect the economic scene in Germany and the interest rates there, it won't be "the most severe downturn..."

On the other hand, Mr Delors' Social Charter, inducing the hitherto prudent and moderate German trade unions to insist on excessive wage claims may well prompt the Bundesbank to keep these rates at a high level for quite some time to come.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PRESSBURGER,
167 Morningside Road,
Edinburgh 10.

Taking off

From Miss M. Howells
Sir, You write (Comment, December 17) "If consumers ceased to fear debt and unemployment quite so much, they could provide their own fuel of confidence for take off."

With every available plane ticket reported to be sold for holidays abroad this Christmas, the recession appears to have holes. Has anybody worked out where and why? Yours faithfully,
M. HOWELLS,
64 Victoria Drive,
SW19.

Maastricht muddle on pensions

From Mr D. Lindsay
Sir, The news that a protocol to the Maastricht agreement has reversed much of the right to equal treatment in occupational pensions that the Barber decision had established (Business News, December 13) is hardly a good omen for Europe.

Not only has a pensions "inequality" provision been put in place in just 18 months, while the draft directive on equality in state pensions has languished unpassed for four years; the provision was not debated in Parliament, either at member state or European level, and it totally disregards the principle of subsidiarity.

As the problem created by Barber is to reconcile justice with practicality, it clearly does make good sense to legislate, rather than litigate, but

Free advice

From Sable M. Fanshawe
Sir, The banks say that the costs would be prohibitive for them to send out notices to all their customers every time they change the interest rates on deposits.

But there is a quite simple solution: they should print the interest rate on the bank statements. It would entail a minor change to their existing software (which could take place during regular software maintenance) and no additional costs, since the banks send out the statements anyway (my bank sends me one every time I request it).

Can anyone tell me why this cannot be done, or why it is not currently being done? Yours faithfully,
SABLE M. FANSHAW,
Flat 2,
12 Gratwicke Road,
Worthing,
West Sussex.

Workfare not welfare: the fatal flaw of money for nothing

From Mr J B Shedden
Sir, Reference Dr Eamonn Butler's article on "the employment trap" (Business News, December 19), it should also be mentioned that under present arrangements the taxpayer's commitment to supporting the unemployed does not end at retirement age.

As well as the financial disincentive to work indicated in Dr Butler's table of comparative incomes, the unemployed person has the further disincentive of knowing that in due course he will receive a retirement pension for which the normal contribution requirements have been excused.

It will be supplemented, in all probability, by the contribution of rent and community

charge rebates, etc; so that even in retirement his income may be close to that of many who were in employment for all of their working lives and who will have to continue to support him from the tax levied on their own retirement incomes.

This adds weight to Ralph Howell's proposal to replace employment benefit with the offer of a realistic wage for working in environmental or social projects. This idea has much to commend it, despite obvious difficulties.

Logically, such a scheme could be extended to include students in higher and further education.

Instead of grants, students could be offered a realistic wage for undertaking approved courses of study. As in

the case of any other wage, the amount to be paid could depend on attendance, performance and progress. Higher rates could be used to attract students into disciplines where there were shortages of skilled and qualified people.

These arrangements might give the taxpayer better value for money while at the same time relieving students from the financial pressures which can often affect their performance at present.

In addition, the anomalies of the parental contribution to grants would be removed. Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. SHEDDEN,
6 Barnfield Close,
Crockenhill,
Swanley,
Kent.

هنا من الاول

TODAY IN BUSINESS

COLD TURKEY



The "cold turkey" cure for Britain's economic ills is working but may take time, says Douglas McWilliams, CBI economic adviser, in a personal view of 1992
Page 29

MCC MOVE

An Anglo-American solution to the legal wrangling over Maxwell Communication has been agreed
Page 28

ALL CLEAR



Lawrence Eagleburger, America's deputy secretary of state, has cleared the way for British Aerospace to proceed with a \$100 million order for BAe 146 aircraft to Iran
Page 28

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8678 (-0.0027)
German mark 2.8404 (same)
Exchange index 91.4 (-0.1)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month Interbank 11-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4-10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.86-3.85%
30-year bonds 10 7/8-10 7/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.8678
£ DM2.8380
£ Sfr2.5378
£ FF9.6880
£ Yen233.22
£ Indx311.4
ECU £0.76117
ECU1.386419
New York:
\$ £1.8685
\$ DM1.5175
\$ Sfr1.3590
\$ FF15.1845
\$ Yen124.85
\$ Indx300.6
SDR £0.763472
SDR1.39805

Decline in fees raises pressure to cut costs

More job losses expected at merchant banks

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE City's merchant banks are facing further job losses and cost-cutting this year after another fall in the volume of mergers and acquisitions business and continuing pressure on fees.

The value of bids completed last year fell to £10 billion, compared with £12 billion in 1990 and a record £55 billion in 1989, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*, the specialist corporate finance magazine. Fees earned by the City's merchant bankers, accountants and solicitors from mergers and acquisitions work fell from £180 million to £145 million. This compares with an estimated £800 million at the height of the merger boom in 1989.

Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said merchant banks have been quietly laying off staff all year. "They come from both ends of the spectrum — both the younger bankers who joined in the boom and the older corporate financiers, who are leaving to make room for younger executives. Unless we see a dramatic upturn in activity, there will be a lot more [redundancies]."

Merchant banks are also concerned that the political uncertainty surrounding the general election this year will deter companies from launching bids.

Mr Healey said: "The financial climate and the raw materials for deals are there; only the confidence is missing."

The year saw very few large bids. Only three were worth more than £500 million: BTR's successful offer for Hawker Siddeley, Lasmio's failed attempt to take over Ultramar, and Williams's unsuccessful bid for Racal.

Morgan Grenfell has regained its position at the top of the league table of M&A advisers after five years. The bank advised on 11 deals, worth £2.43 billion, including the defence of Ultramar.

The bank's lead position demonstrates the success of Deutsche Bank's takeover two years ago, while proving that the bank has rid itself of any stigma from the Guinness affair.

Michael Dobson, the chief executive, said the bank had achieved its success through hard work, adding: "It's nice to be there and we are going into 1992 with a bigger backlog of work than we have had for some time." The bank is advising Redland in its bid for Steeley, and is expanding on the Continent and in America.

Morgan Grenfell came second in 1990 and has overtaken Baring Brothers, which slumped to twelfth position in the league table. J Henry Schroder Wagg advanced from sixth to second in after working on 21 deals — more than any other bank — worth £2.36 billion.

David Challen, the head of Schroders' corporate finance department said the result was characteristic of the bank.

He added: "We would hope always to be in the top handful of banks, since we have a wide range of clients. You cannot invent M&A business but you can help your clients identify opportunities."

The surprise star of the league table was Hambro Magan, the small corporate finance boutique, which climbed seven places to fifth. The improvement was almost entirely due to its role in the

two bids by BTR, a former Morgan Grenfell client.

The list also shows that some of the newer arrivals in the City are prospering, while more established names are finding it difficult to win business.

Goldman Sachs came third in the league, up one place, and was by far the most successful American house in London. Mr Healey said: "Goldman is always there in any mega-bid in Britain these days."

The year has not been so good for either Hambros, which could only manage twentieth place, or Lazard Brothers, which slumped from third to seventeenth place.

Mr Healey said the downturn in business had forced the merchant banks to concentrate on first division business went out the window. They are trying to cover overheads and are handling much smaller deals.

American merger volume in terms of dollar value plunged 31 per cent to \$145.60 billion last year from \$211.90 billion in 1990, according to preliminary estimates from Securities Data.

European merger volume fell 41 per cent to \$118.30 billion last year from \$201.90 billion in 1990, with worldwide activity falling 38 per cent to \$311.50 billion from \$498.4 billion in the previous 12 months.

THE 1991 M&A LEAGUE TABLE

Financial adviser	No of deals	Value £m
1 Morgan Grenfell (2)	11	2,426
2 Schroders (6)	21	2,355
3 Goldman Sachs (4)	3	2,291
4 SG Warburg (8)	11	2,102
5 Hambro Magan (12)	3	1,646
6 BZW (5)	10	1,627
7 Rothschild Group (9)	7	1,459
8 Kleinwort Benson (13)	12	1,381
9 Morgan Stanley (1)	2	1,174
10 County NatWest (17)	6	852

Source: *Acquisitions Monthly* (1990 ranking in brackets)



Taking a lead: Bill Jordan, who is advocating a partnership with industry

AEU's single-union push could provoke TUC rift

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Britain's biggest manufacturing union have written to hundreds of employers in Wales, praising single-union deals. In an initiative likely to provoke concern among rival unions, the Amalgamated Engineering Union provides a list of contact numbers for its regional and national offices.

Trades Union Congress rules prohibit unions from poaching one another's members. Although the AEU confines itself to detailing the benefits of single-union deals it has concluded, other unions, especially the MSF technical union, might see its action as a threat.

Ken Gill, outgoing MSF general secretary, has sharply criticised single-union deals, arguing that they deprive employees of the right to choose their representatives.

The recession has triggered a sharp fall in the membership of many unions as companies shed jobs. The AEU has responded aggressively by seeking sole representation in new manufacturing plants, and by arranging a merger with the smaller EETPU electronics union.

If that goes ahead, the AEU will become Britain's second-largest union, with almost a million members.

The approach to Welsh employers is an attempt to capitalise on the AEU's moderate and progressive image. The union has produced a brochure entitled *A Progressive Partnership*, designed to sell the benefits of AEU representation to employers.

In his introduction to the brochure, Bill Jordan, AEU president, who received a CBE in the New Year honours, says his union is "leading the way to a progressive partnership with industry and the improvement of industrial relations".

He predicts: "The days of multi-union bargaining are numbered. If companies are to prosper, as we all wish, then a new approach to trade unionism is needed."

The AEU, Mr Jordan says, believes "single-union agreements are the most effective way of ensuring a new enterprise is successful, profitable and prosperous".

The union signed its first significant single-union agreement in 1976. That was with Sony, the Japanese electronics group, at Bridgend, south Wales. Since then, it has concluded 17 more such deals.

Typically, they cover all employees, including quite senior management, provide for total job flexibility within the capacity of the individual, and make independent arbitration binding if the union and a company cannot settle differences.

Sizeable productivity gains have resulted.

Within the AEU, Mr Jordan says, there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Over the course of the year, equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Over the course of the year, equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Over the course of the year, equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Over the course of the year, equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Pressure on pound likely to continue

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

THE pound, which ended last year near its annual low, is expected to come under renewed pressure today, when European and North American currency markets reopen after the holiday.

Severe pressure on sterling will reinforce City conviction that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, may be forced to sanction a half-point increase in the base rate to prevent a run on the pound, rather than expend large amounts of official reserves, even though these stand at an historically high \$43 billion.

The money markets have been expecting an increase in base rate to 11 per cent since the Bundesbank raised both its key lending rates aggressively on December 19. On New Year's eve, the pound closed in London at DM2.8369, less than half a pfennig from the point at which the Bank of England is obliged under exchange-rate mechanism rules to support the currency.

Chris Dillow, economist at Nomura Research, said it was difficult to see what would help the pound when the markets open fully. He added: "Without recovery, backbencher calls for devaluation, or leaving the ERM, are not going to disappear, nor is a turnaround in confidence likely in the next few months."

Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, said it would be "touch and go" whether Mr Lamont could avoid a base rate rise.

Official reserves data out tomorrow will show how much the Bank of England intervened to support the pound in December. Forecasts centre on an underlying increase of about \$200 million, but this reflects the sale of the government's BT stake. Excluding this, intervention was probably modest.

Comment, page 29

Stock markets, page 28

US trade policies attacked

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIA, the leader of the Cairns Group, the agricultural exporters' lobby, has attacked America for pursuing policies that could break the world up into feuding trade blocs — the Americas, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Paul Keating, Australia's new prime minister, made his criticism in a note to President Bush during talks in Sydney.

Australia believes the way to avoid a damaging bloc formation would be to concentrate on a successful outcome to the world trade talks. America, the European Community and Japan are seeking to establish the final positions they will adopt towards the take-it-or-leave-it package of draft texts for a world pact under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Uruguay round package was presented on December 20 by Arthur Dunkel, GATT director general, who gave warning that it could be unravelled without threatening the whole agreement. There has been no sign of an end to the transatlantic dispute over farm subsidies.

Study could hit Glaxo's top seller

BY MARTIN WALLER

AN AMERICAN medical study has suggested that Zantac, the world's biggest-selling pharmaceutical and the main money-spinner for Glaxo, the drug group, should carry a warning to patients. Research has indicated that it might raise blood-alcohol concentrations in social drinkers.

Another long-established and widely prescribed anti-ulcer drug, Tagamet, made by SmithKline Beecham, is also pinpointed. Both companies' share prices are likely to come under pressure today as the City takes note of the study, in the journal of the American Medical Association.

Glaxo said other studies had found no link between Zantac and blood-alcohol. SmithKline Beecham described the study as "academic", since patients were advised not to drink heavily.

The study, by a team led by Dr Carlo DiPadova and Charles Liever at Mount Sinai Medical Centre, New York, suggests that patients prescribed the drugs, especially social drinkers who drive vehicles or operate machinery, should be warned. It says Zantac (ranitidine) and Tagamet (cimetidine) increased blood-alcohol concentrations by 34 per cent and 92 per cent respectively over baseline measures in a group of 20 healthy white males aged 24 to 26.

The team also tested the effects of alcohol consumption on patients taking another anti-ulcer compound, Merck's Pepcid. In that case, it reports, changes in blood-alcohol were not significant.

A Glaxo spokesman said that in the 11 years Zantac had been on the market, it had been intensively studied. Research last year on a group of 40 patients, twice the number

tested at Mount Sinai, had shown no such link between the drug and blood-alcohol. Earlier this year, Dr Ernest Mario, Glaxo's deputy chairman, said he did not expect Zantac's sales to decline in the next five years.

SmithKline Beecham accepted that Tagamet, on the market for 15 years, would, by reducing acid secretion, be likely to increase stomach absorption of any substance.

Glaxo, Britain's biggest pharmaceutical company, has been one of the best-performing shares on the London stock market in recent years, and its rise has been fuelled almost entirely by Zantac. In the last financial year, the drug contributed almost half Glaxo's sales and, analysts believe, more than half its profits. Twice last year, the company brought legal ac-

tions to defend Zantac's patent. SmithKline Beecham is far less dependent on Tagamet. Since the Anglo-American merger in 1989 that created the group, the drug has accounted for a little more than a tenth of sales and has been overtaken as a revenue-earner by Augmentin, an antibiotic.

Meanwhile, SmithKline Beecham received approval from the Food and Drug Administration for Relafen, a drug for rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

A study showed that a combination of two antiviral drugs, Wellcome's AZT compound and the experimental drug dideoxycytidine, made by Hoffmann-La Roche, seems to raise the number of white blood cells that are important in building up resistance to Aids.

Over the past five years, it says, the average return on a pension fund has been almost 10 per cent, despite the stock

market crashes of 1987 and 1990.

The WM study adds that while individual fund returns will vary around the average, funds that are equity-oriented and not too exposed to property will have benefited in relative terms.

Equities, both British and overseas, dominate the results, producing returns of 20.5 and 20.8 per cent respectively, but British and overseas bonds also made good running.

The worst-performing areas, inevitably, are property and UK index-linked stocks.

With the United Kingdom property sector excluded, the average return rises to 18.6 per cent. In overseas equities,



Mario: Zantac forecast

Pension funds 10% ahead of inflation

BY OUR CITY STAFF

DESPITE the stock market upsets of last year, British pension funds more than kept their collective head above water, producing an average return of almost 17 per cent and a real return, discounting inflation, of more than 10 per cent.

The WM Company, which has analysed the performance of British pension fund portfolios over the past 18 years, says that returns over a longer period than just 12 months are also keeping ahead of inflation.

Over the past five years, it says, the average return on a pension fund has been almost 10 per cent, despite the stock

market crashes of 1987 and 1990.

The WM study adds that while individual fund returns will vary around the average, funds that are equity-oriented and not too exposed to property will have benefited in relative terms.

Equities, both British and overseas, dominate the results, producing returns of 20.5 and 20.8 per cent respectively, but British and overseas bonds also made good running.

The worst-performing areas, inevitably, are property and UK index-linked stocks.

With the United Kingdom property sector excluded, the average return rises to 18.6 per cent. In overseas equities,

equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Over the course of the year, equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Over the course of the year, equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

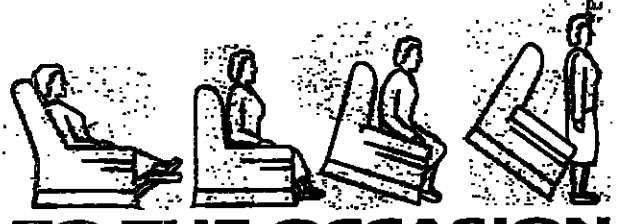
Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Over the course of the year, equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Main categories

Estimate for 1991	
UK equities	20.5
Overseas equities	20.8
UK bonds	18.4
Overseas bonds	19.5
Index-linked	5.6
Cash/other investments	12.2
Total assets (excluding property)	18.6
UK property	-2.4
Overseas property	12.4
Total assets (including property)	18.9
Retail price index	4.8
Average earnings index	7.1

Source: WM Company



TO THE OCCASION

If you find getting in and out of chairs a bit of a struggle the Ortho-Kinetics Lifting/Reclining Chair will help ease the pain of sitting and standing at the touch of a button. It also enables you to recline the chair for perfect comfort, whether watching TV, reading or just relaxing. Especially suitable for people with weak limbs or painful backs, sufferers of rheumatism, arthritis, stroke, MS, etc a Lifting/Reclining Chair can make life a little easier and lessen your dependence on others. Send for your free colour brochure.

- Relief from pain
- Slow, reassuring action
- Gives security and independence
- Choice of styles

SEND FOR FREE FULL COLOUR BROCHURE OR
Tel: (0902) 866166

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.....
Address.....
Town.....
County..... Post Code.....
Post to: ORTHO-KINETICS (UK) LTD
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV13 3XA.

CODE
TMB/VC